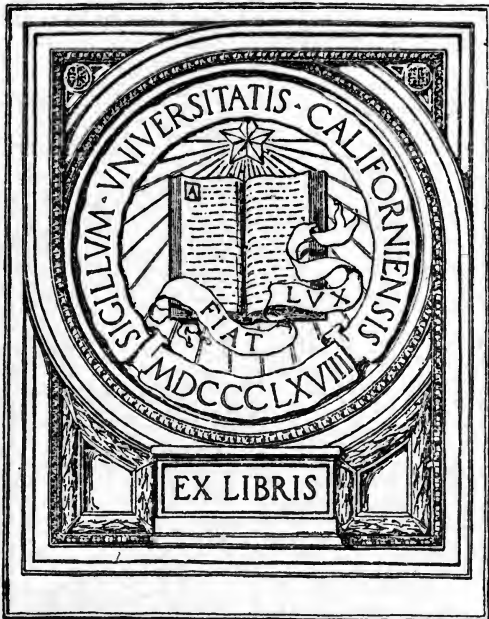
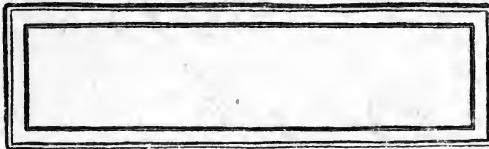


# FRANCIS ORMOND





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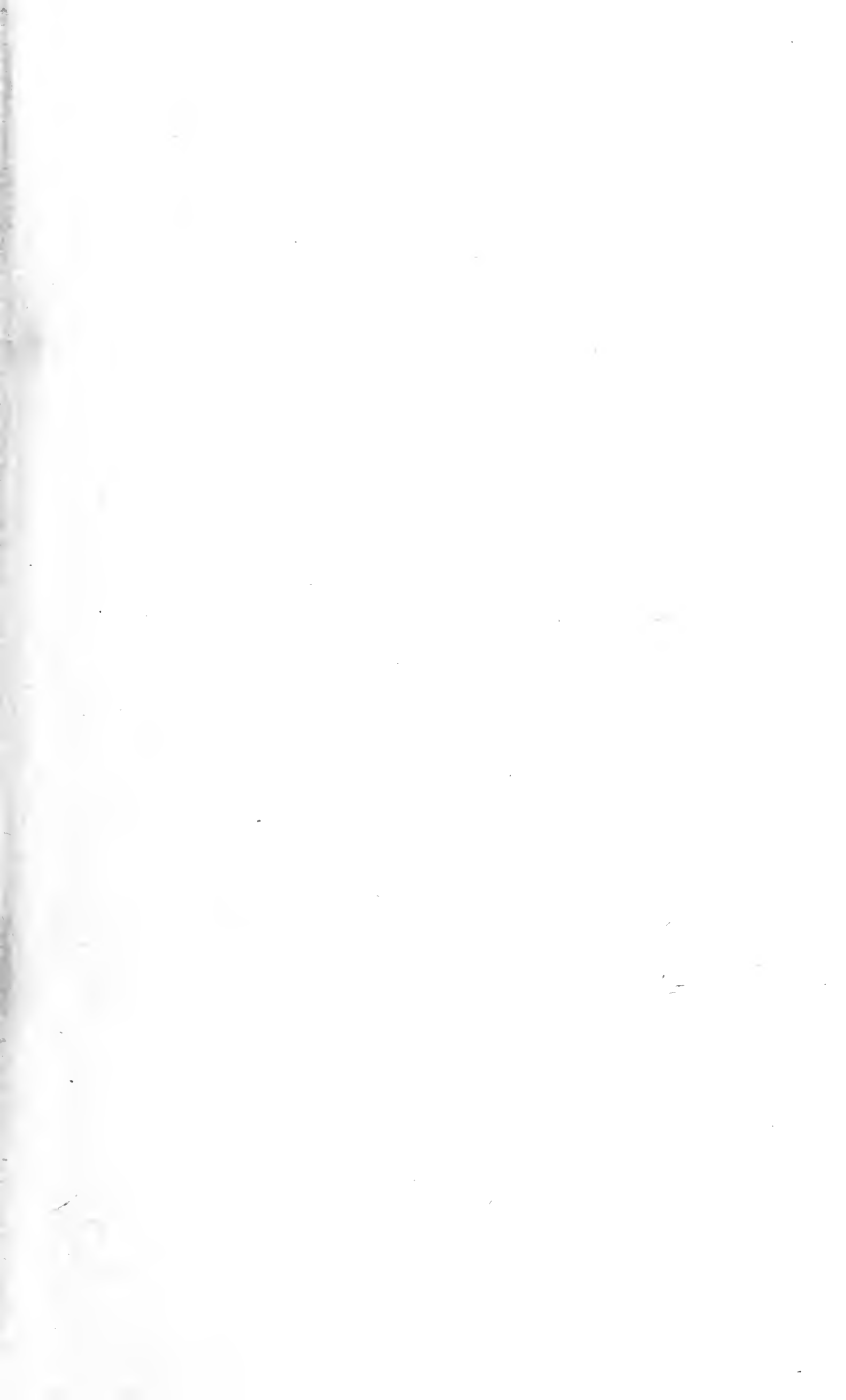
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**FRANCIS ORMOND**

**PIONEER, PATRIOT, PHILANTHROPIST**







HON. FRANCIS ORMOND.

*[Frontispiece]*

# FRANCIS ORMOND

PIONEER, PATRIOT, PHILANTHROPIST

BY

C. STUART ROSS

AUTHOR OF "COLONISATION AND CHURCH WORK IN VICTORIA,"  
"FIJI AND THE WESTERN PACIFIC," ETC., ETC.

*WITH PORTRAITS AND ILLUSTRATIONS*



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To

MRS. FRANCIS ORMOND

WHOSE INTELLIGENT AND WARM SYMPATHY  
AND WISE CO-OPERATION WITH HER  
LATE HUSBAND CONTRIBUTED TO THE  
EXPANSION AND SUCCESS OF THE  
GREAT EDUCATIONAL ENTERPRISES  
WITH WHICH HIS NAME IS  
ASSOCIATED, THIS VOLUME IS  
WITH MUCH RESPECT  
DEDICATED BY THE  
AUTHOR





## PREFACE

THOUGH many years have passed since Mr. Ormond's remains were laid to rest amid remarkable demonstrations of public grief, yet no apology, I take it, is needed for the publication of this book, which tells of the early struggles, successes, and lofty ideals of one whose name is enshrined in some of the noblest institutions of the State. With an ardent desire to promote intellectual culture and broaden the outlook of human sympathies, with a prescient eye to discern imperative national needs and to perceive how these can be best supplied, with a heart full of longing to uplift all toilers and to fling open to them doors of technical knowledge in order to the elevation of their social condition, Mr. Ormond, with unflinching and heroic fortitude and faith, set himself to the accomplishment of the great tasks by which his own mind was so strongly obsessed: and it was given to him before he passed to know of the splendid success that crowned the enterprises that lay so near his heart.

It is well, I think, that the younger generation growing up among us should very earnestly and intelligently contemplate such a life as that which is here portrayed, and endeavour to catch something of

the spirit of the man whose noble aspiration it was to "strive to make the world better for his having been born into it."

This book became possible only through the kindness of Mrs. Ormond, now of Bournemouth, England, who sent for my use in this connection all the material in her possession, consisting of newspaper cuttings, diaries, and personal reminiscences.

All the known available sources of information in the State have been exhausted, with a view to enabling me to make as accurate a presentment as possible of the life and character of our great philanthropist, who stands out in the public eye as pre-eminently a true friend of the people, one who, through the noble institutions which he founded and endowed, is exerting a salutary influence on life and thought, opinion and character, not only in our own State, but throughout the wide Commonwealth of Australia.

To the Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C., Mr. and Mrs. T. J. Finlay, Mr. F. A. Campbell, C.E., and the late Mr. Robert Gillespie, I am indebted for interesting notes which are embodied in the following pages.

C. STUART ROSS.

BRIGHTON, VICTORIA,  
1912.

## FOREWORD

THE difficulty of collecting material for these memorials of a very busy and self-sacrificing life has been great, as, just before leaving Australia for the last time, Mr. Ormond destroyed nearly the whole of the correspondence he had received for many years. Last year, his valued friend, the late Robert Gillespie, wrote : " I am sincerely sorry that Mr. Ormond destroyed the records of his life ; if they had been on hand now, they would have been material for a book which would have been widely read."

Many of these letters dated from the early fifties of last century, and were interesting as giving details of the early making of Victoria, socially and politically, and their loss is to be the more regretted as the busy life of the Bush, in early days, left little leisure for keeping a diary, beyond the daily record of station life and work, though this active life had, at times, its thrilling as well as tragic incidents.

Mr. Ormond had a great love for Australia, especially for Victoria, his own State, and when prosperous days and leisure came to him, this love made him devote himself to furthering the best interests of his country. It was only those of his own household who knew to

the full his ceaseless and self-denying activity in this cause.

I take this opportunity of thanking the Rev. C. S. Ross for the great kindness, patience, and sympathy he has shown in putting together these memorials, a labour which I should have gladly undertaken had circumstances permitted.

MARY ORMOND.

BOURNEMOUTH,  
1912.

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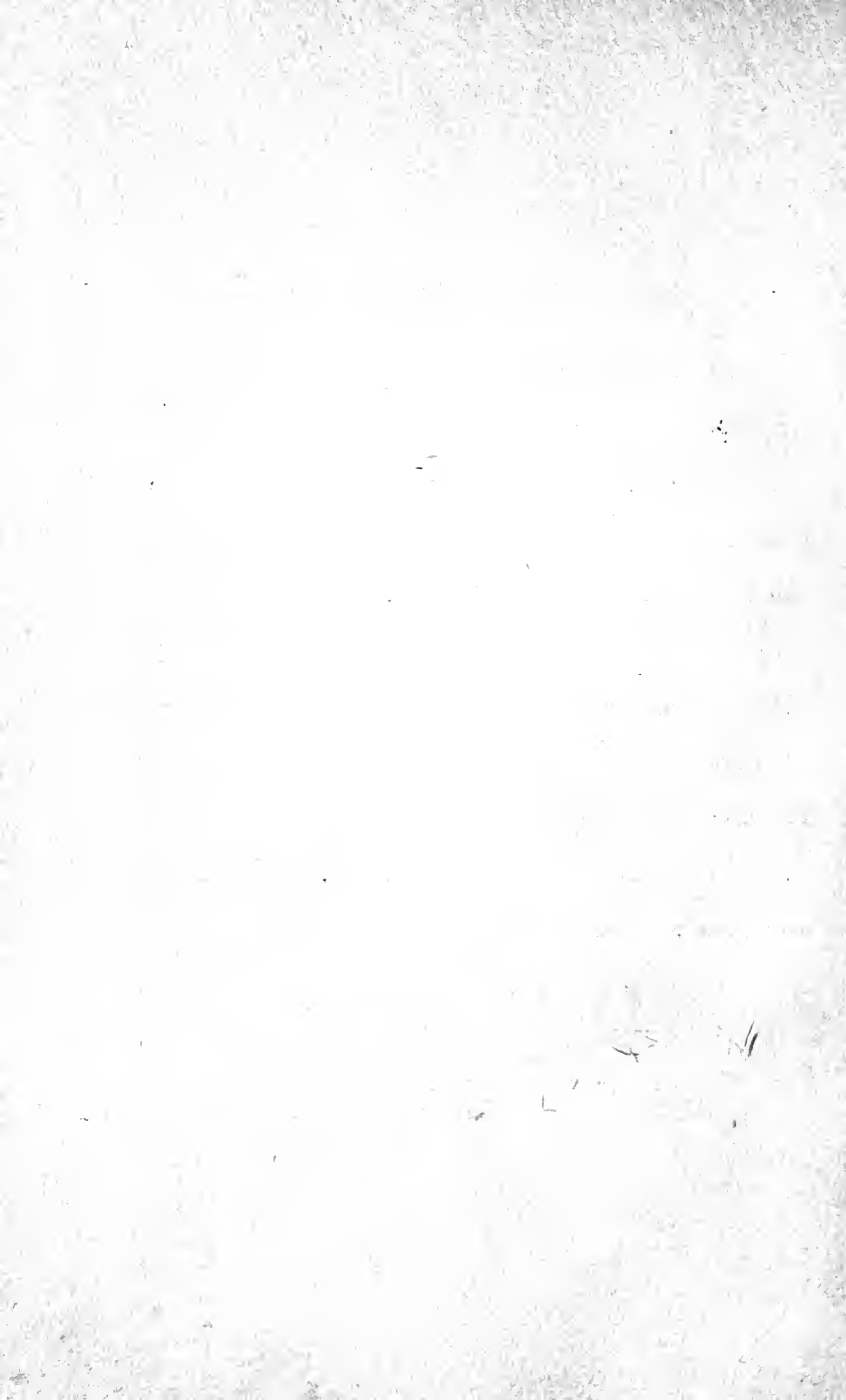
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# FRANCIS ORMOND

PIONEER, PATRIOT, PHILANTHROPIST

## CHAPTER I

### PARENTAGE

CAPTAIN ORMOND, like all who are called by his name and own his nationality, came originally from a small village not far from Arbroath in Forfarshire, Scotland. From his infancy the boom of the North Sea filled his ears, and like many a Scottish youth whose home was cast on the eastern coast of his native land, within easy reach of a shipping port, he felt the attraction of a sailor's life, and, in his early years, apprenticed himself to the owner of a trading craft. With an always-open eye and ready hand and untiring devotion to his work he pushed his way rapidly to a front place in his profession. At nineteen years of age, his competency as a master mariner being established, he assumed the responsibility of captain of a small coasting vessel. He was a man of great force of character, resourceful and self-reliant, a strict disciplinarian, fearless in the performance of duty, bluff and hearty, shrewd and

honest, and not wanting in some of the more obvious and robust virtues that are characteristic of the typical sailor's life.

For some years he lived in Aberdeen, where he found a true help-meet who stood bravely by him in times of stress; for sorrows of bereavement shadowed their home, and in the Old Machar churchyard the remains of one of their boys were interred. From Aberdeen Captain Ormond removed with his family to Liverpool, a more important centre of shipping activities, where larger opportunities of advancing his personal interests opened up before him.

Interest in these Australian lands was at that time being awakened in Britain, and some of the more sturdy sons of our race were moving out to take possession of the wide, rich pastures which were bare of stock and awaiting remunerative occupation by hardy and indomitable pioneers. People talked about Australia Felix, so graphically described by Hume and Hovell in the report of their adventurous exploration of the western part of the Port Phillip Province, and the opportunity came to Captain Ormond to traverse these seas. In September 1836 he sailed from Liverpool for Van Diemen's Land in command of the barque *Northumberland*, and arrived in port on January 9, 1837, having on board as passengers some who, like the late Duncan McRae of the Wannon, faced hardships and won good records among the more successful pastoralists of the West.

Again, in 1840 he was the first to bring out to Port Phillip direct a number of immigrants in the *John*

*Bull.* On that occasion he anchored off the red bluff between Brighton and Mordialloc, which has since been known, in commemoration of that event, as Point Ormond. The New Settlement (as it was called) on the bank of the Yarra was then only in the fifth year of its existence. A few slab huts, with native forest pressing hard upon them, were all he saw, but he made some excursions into the country lying back from the sea-board, and was so impressed with the openings which the Settlement presented to men of enterprise and daring that, on his return to Britain, he purchased the *Tuscan*, a small vessel of 180 tons, loaded her with a miscellaneous cargo, and with his wife and family, consisting of a son and two daughters, he set sail for Melbourne.

Arriving at Hobson's Bay in 1842, he found the Settlement passing through a grave crisis, owing largely to wild speculation in land and to social extravagance, which had smitten with paralysis the arms of trade. A blight seemed to have fallen on the pastoral industry and a disastrous depreciation in values of stock had set in. Sheep, for which thirty-five shillings had been paid, were sold for eighteen pence, and sometimes less than that. Young men had come to Melbourne, each possessed of a small capital of a few hundred pounds, which they invested in stock, clubbing together with the twofold object of ensuring their common safety and reducing the expenses of station management. But many of them were indifferent colonists, notably wanting in qualities that command success; wearying of the privations and

sombre life of the bush, they spent much of their time in Melbourne in indolent and reckless neglect of their interests, with the result that the eventful years 1841-5 overwhelmed them with disaster, and their properties passed into other hands.

That was the discouraging state of things which Captain Ormond found on his arrival at Port Phillip in 1842; and instead of settling here, as he had intended, he listened to the glowing reports which reached him from New Zealand, and, weighing anchor, he crossed the sea, and visited some of the northern ports of that new colony. But there was trouble with the Maoris, and some of the tribes were at open feud with the Europeans. While hesitating how to act, he met Mr. Claud Farie (one of his passengers in the *John Bull* on his former voyage to Melbourne), and, guided by his counsel, he returned to Port Phillip, and settled, by arrangement with Mr. George Russell, manager of the Clyde Company's properties, at Sheldford, near Geelong.

## CHAPTER II

### THE STRENUOUS LIFE OF A PIONEER

FRANCIS, the only surviving son of Captain Ormond, was born at Aberdeen on November 23, 1827, and educated at Tyzack's Academy, Liverpool, where for some time he enjoyed the educational advantages which a school of established reputation affords. It was his father's intention to have him trained for a commercial life, and, with that object in view, he was about to enter the counting-house of a well-known merchant in Geelong, when an incident occurred which gave an entirely new direction to his activities. That was the purchase by Captain Ormond of a small sheep station from the Rev. John Gow, at the very low rate of 2s. 6d. per head for the sheep, including the right to occupy the land. The station, which was near Pig-goreet, was known as Mopiamnum, and while Francis was quite a youth, only nineteen years of age, his father had such confidence in his judgment, probity, and entire fitness for the position, that he entrusted him with the management of the station, giving him a horse and only one lad to assist him.

It was poor country, roughly undulating, largely patched with timber and scrub, with a few grassy glades which afforded pasture for his stock. Like

most of the early settlers he had to toil hard and conquer difficulties, keeping vigilant watch over his flocks, defending them from native raids and hungry dingoes. When land had to be broken up and no horse was available, he had himself to draw the plough and harrows. Sometimes, in the early days, when markets were not accessible, or when stores were depleted of stocks, he had, with his own hands, to manufacture the working boots which he wore. But he showed a marvellous adaptability to circumstances, a keen enjoyment of all his surroundings: he was gifted with exceptional physical vitality, with vigorous powers of mind, and a calm intrepidity which made him face danger without flinching, and made habits of industry and privation and toil a positive joy to him. For, even then, he had a lofty objective in view towards which he pressed with a passionate earnestness: he was ever reaching out towards better things. And so the two youths out yonder in the Piggoreet wilderness successfully held their own, providing for their own wants, and living with such economy as their circumstances required.

The pastoral life afforded opportunities for mental culture which were not allowed to pass unimproved. Neither the festivities of the town, nor the attractions which the Turf Club offered, nor the Saturday meetings of the Corio hounds, lured him from the pursuit of the object which he had set before him. The informing of his mind and the cultivation of his powers went steadily on. Like the ancient writer who, with patient hand, copied his favourite classic



many times over, in order that he might catch and appropriate, if possible, the beauty of diction and chasteness of expression that gave character and attractiveness to his work, so Mr. Ormond, knowing the importance and worth of a clear, terse, and incisive style, laboured when a mere lad for self-improvement in that direction, by copying such passages of inspiring poetry and of nervous, limpid prose as arrested his attention in the course of his reading. Arithmetical problems, it is said, never baffled him. In dealing with questions of finance he always seemed to find the quickest method of arriving at results, and his remarkable intellectual keenness was attested by the fact that he could add simultaneously three columns of figures with rapidity and correctness.

Things prospered at Mopiamnum, and, with the growth of the enterprise, more help was required. In 1850 several boys were employed on the station: they were entirely uneducated. No opportunity of acquiring even the rudiments of knowledge had come their way. Mr. Ormond therefore proposed to put them through a course of instruction, to which they readily assented, and the evening, or so much time as they could spare, was usually devoted to that purpose; and there in that poor, slab hut, dimly lighted with the "bush candle" of the period—a rag stuck in a pannikin of grease—such good work was done that the lads acquired a fairly useful education before they left their employer's service.

The carriage of mails in the early days was an arduous and responsible work, which demanded

courage and power of endurance from those who undertook it. Mr. Ormond, finding that he could make that fit in with the performance of his other duties, sent in a tender for the conveyance of mails, which was accepted, and he and the youth who helped him on the station "rode post for the district."

Always on the watch for opportunities to advance his interests and to improve his flocks, he bought from Mr. C. Synott the Ghirangemerajah (now Berrybank) Station, near Lismore, which, as it was within easy reach of Mopiamnum, was efficiently managed from his base.

There were many questions of social and political importance pressed on the attention of settlers in the later forties to which Mr. Ormond was by no means indifferent, though his close application to his own pastoral concerns made it impossible for him to intervene actively in public affairs. The scarcity of labour affected every branch of industry in the West, and a movement was initiated at Geelong to import shepherds and others from Van Diemen's Land, where many of the working-classes were suffering from a prolonged depression of trade. A powerful agitation then arose for the introduction into the Colony of Pentonville exiles, many of whom were landed at the port and quickly absorbed by employers of labour. Vast flocks of sheep came overland from New South Wales, under the charge of emancipist drovers, and that was a disturbing element to many owing to the fatal conflicts with the natives into which the unruly and reckless conduct of the convicts often led them.

Again, the glut of markets caused by the rapid increase of stock awakened anxiety in many graziers. But when Mr. Hume, a pastoralist of New South Wales, proved that it was more profitable to boil a sheep down for tallow than to sell it for meat, boiling-down houses were established, and for many years absorbed the surplus stock of the Colony, to the great advantage of tenants of the Crown. Again, the old principle of "no taxation without representation," which has found repeated and emphatic statement in our British history, was boldly vindicated at a large meeting of squatters held at Geelong, when the District Council in 1845 proposed to impose a tax upon them. These were some of the burning questions of the day in which Mr. Ormond, in common with his class, took a large and intelligent interest.

## CHAPTER III

### BURNT OUT

BUSH fires have frequently devastated wide areas of our State, causing distress and loss to those who were affected by them ; but nothing comparable to the calamities of Black Thursday has been repeated in our history. That day stands out for ever memorable in our annals, impressed very deeply on the minds of all who breathed its almost stifling air, panted in its almost suffocating heat, and gazed on the brilliant spectacle of the blazing forests which flung out sheets of flame that lighted up for miles around the murky blackness of the night.

That was February 6, 1851. The fire passed over Mopiamnum. Desperate efforts were made to arrest its progress. Mr. Ormond laboured to the point of exhaustion to rescue his imperilled stock. He fell, overcome by the extreme heat, and, as there was no water available, sherry was poured over his face in order to revive him. In view of his approaching marriage he had furnished his homestead anew, and when the dwelling was ablaze his housekeeper made gallant efforts to rescue his possessions. She saved at least his dining-room chairs, sitting down and weeping hysterically over every one which she placed in safety.

The fire, swept on by a violent wind, drove all the people on the station before it. They sought refuge in the trees on the river bank, and when these were aflame their only recourse was the water, in which they found some relief from the oppressive heat. Some of the stock escaped, but the pastures were all consumed.

Appalling as this visitation appeared at first sight and involving serious loss, it was really, to Mr. Ormond at least, a blessing in disguise. Mopiamnum was an ill-favoured run, largely covered with dense scrub, in places almost impenetrable. But the fire now swept it clean. Copious rains soon followed, and springing pastures clothed lands which had never yielded grass before. Its value as a sheep station immediately rose, and Mr. Ormond sold to advantage to his neighbour, Mr. Brown: a transaction which enabled him to purchase from Mr. Henry Anderson the Borriyalloak Station, comprising an area of something like 30,000 acres of first-class grazing country, the merino flocks and wools of which for long years had wide fame in the West. About the same time he sold the Ghiran-gemerajah Station, which, in 1851, passed into the hands of the mother of its present owner, Mr. Joseph Mack.

The discovery of gold a few months later, while it caused trouble from scarcity of labour, alluring men from all steady employment, greatly increased the value of stock and station property from the vast influx of population that followed the announcement of the boundless wealth of our auriferous fields. Mr. Ormond, with a fine sense of scrupulous honesty and

filial duty, being now in affluent circumstances, paid back to his father the whole sum which he had disbursed on his account. His earnest, energetic, arduous life received its appropriate reward. Success was now assured to him, and on November 23, 1851, he was married at Christ Church, Geelong, by Archdeacon Macartney, to Miss Greeves, daughter of Dr. G. A. Greeves, who occupied a distinguished place both in the civil and in the political life of the Colony.

Mr. Ormond, in 1853, was appointed a territorial magistrate, and for many years occupied a seat on the bench at Chepstowe, Carngham, Linton, and other places in the neighbourhood of his property, doing excellent work in that connection by his practical wisdom and thoughtfulness: making the country his debtor by the regularity of his attendance at court, and by his heroic devotion to the duties of his office.

The education of others, even at that early period of his life, was, as he himself repeatedly stated, "a ruling passion." At Borriyalloak he carried on the educational work which he had begun at Mopiamnum. There were a good many people employed on the station, the children of whom, being left to themselves, were growing up in dense ignorance which he felt might be not only disastrous to themselves, but fraught with peril to the State, and, moved by real concern for their future happiness and usefulness, as well as by a sense of responsibility which pressed upon him, he formed a class of young people, and nightly, at much inconvenience and trouble to himself, he "instructed, trained, and disciplined them, so fitting

them for the better and more intelligent performance of the part which they would afterwards play in the affairs of life."

It is worthy of note that carefully trained collies served the purpose of fences in those early days. When summer fires threatened dry pastures on Borriyalloak, the flocks were driven into a swamp lying beyond Widderin, and put under charge of a trustworthy collie. With an instinct marvellously akin to human intelligence, the dog understood what was required of him, kept diligent watch over the flocks, and prevented them leaving their place of safety, until the shepherd returned and the threatened danger was past. When a buyer selected sheep from a flock and put them in a mob apart, it was no uncommon thing to leave them under care of a dog while he visited another part of the run, and to find on his return that the sheep had not been allowed to stray from the place in which they had been left. With the erection of fences and subdivision of the land into suitable paddocks, the education of the dogs came to be restricted to the cultivation of the more simple qualifications which contribute to their usefulness to-day.

## CHAPTER IV

### EXTENSION OF THE EDUCATIONAL PRINCIPLE, AND A PERSONAL ADVENTURE

MR. ORMOND interested himself not only in the awakening and strengthening of the intellectual powers of those who were in his service, or who came into daily touch with him ; he felt there was imperative need to stimulate and unfold their spiritual life, or to establish and foster agencies that might accomplish that, and with this end in view he opened communication with the Presbytery of Melbourne in April 1854, stating that the Presbyterians of Mount Emu Creek were anxious to have a minister settled among them, and that they were prepared to make the necessary provision for his maintenance. Some months after that a public meeting was held at Skipton under the presidency of Mr. Alexander Anderson of Baangal, at which resolutions were passed affirming that " this meeting considers it highly desirable that a minister of the Gospel should be settled in this district." It was also decided to take steps for the erection of a church and manse, and a committee was elected of which Mr. Ormond became an earnest and energetic member. But though immediate application was made to the Synod of Victoria for ministerial supply,



yet it was not till July 1857 that a settlement was effected.

Divine service was conducted monthly at Borriyalloak by the Skipton minister, but usually Mr. Ormond drove with his well-known pair of greys to the township and worshipped in the little brick church that stood near the cemetery overlooking the Emu Creek. With full recognition of the value of religious ordinances, he encouraged all his people to avail themselves of them and afforded facilities for their attendance at public worship.

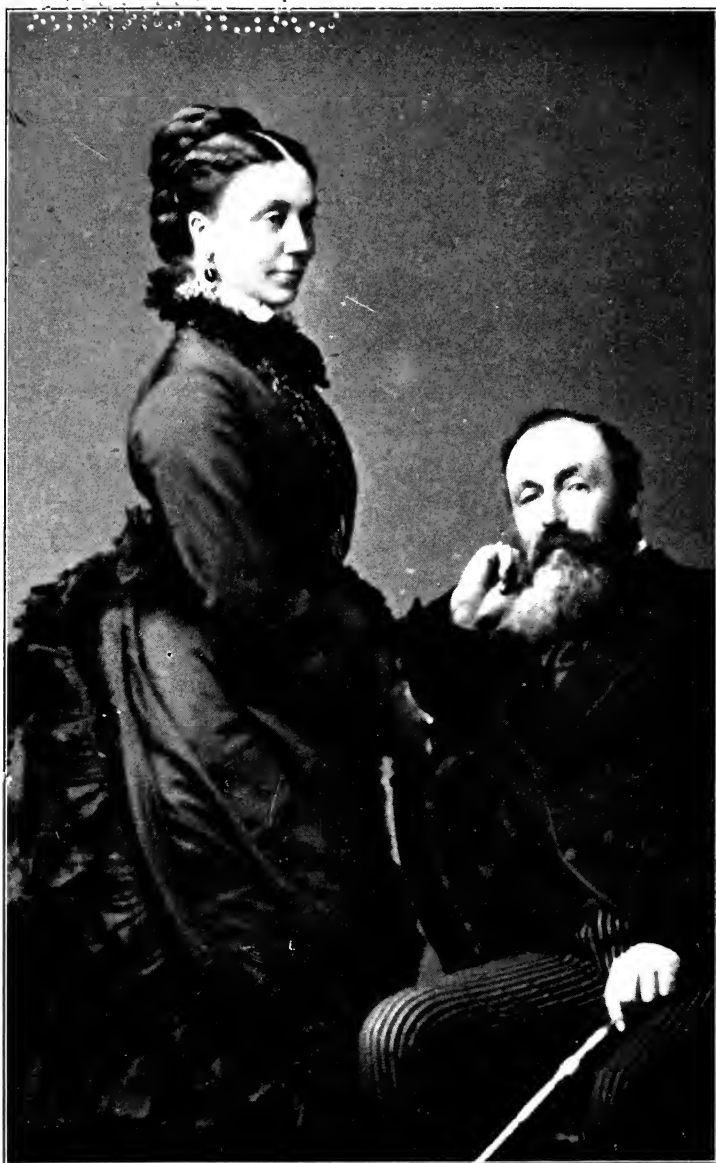
With an ever-widening horizon, looking beyond the boundaries of Borriyalloak, and conceiving that the educational principle might be more generally applied to the improvement of the pastoral interests of the country, he was one of the first to move for the formation of a Society that would concern itself with the development of the great staple industry of the West—that flockowners might learn from the object-lessons which shows presented, and be encouraged by the rewards for excellency there bestowed, to adopt the best methods of managing their stock and of improving the quality of the wool. Therefore, in 1855, after the excitement caused by the discovery of gold had largely waned, Mr. Ormond, with two others—Messrs. Alexander Anderson and J. G. Ware—met at Skipton, for the purpose of forming the first Agricultural and Pastoral Association in the district. One of those present was voted to the chair, whilst the other two moved and seconded resolutions that were carried unanimously—of course. That was the be-

ginning of a movement that had far-reaching issues for the Western District, and gave a new impulse to the pastoral industry. It was the birth of an association the objects of which were to encourage sheep-breeding and wool-growing, and to afford opportunity to pastoralists to exhibit their stock, as well as to open a market for them.

I do not mean to say that this was the first association of the kind formed in the Colony. The Villiers and Heytesbury Association holds priority in point of date. It reaches back to the year 1853, held its first show at Port Fairy in 1854, its second show at Warrnambool the following year. But the Skipton show was an annual event of great importance and contributed in no small measure to spread wide the fame of our merino wool. It created a spirit of keen competition in the great flockmasters of the West, marked a new era in the history of pastoral enterprise, and demonstrated the value of a wise and skilful management of stock. To Mr. Thomas Shaw, of Wooriwyrite, the very capable and energetic Secretary of the Association, the success of the shows was to some extent due.

In later years, with the construction of railways and the rapid settlement of a wide farming area around the great mining centre, the Skipton Association was merged into or absorbed by the Ballarat Pastoral and Agricultural Society, an indirect outcome of which were the great Champion Sheep Shows of subsequent years, held under the auspices of the Australian Sheep-breeding Association, at which Mr. Ormond usually





MR. AND MRS. FRANCIS ORMOND.

gave a prize of twenty-five guineas for the best two-tooth grass-fed rams and ewes.

Bushranging was rife enough in the fifties. The tracks were often bad and for lonely travellers sometimes insecure. It was not an uncommon thing for a belated traveller to be stopped and despoiled of his purse and other valuables which he carried with him. At times the encounter was not without its tragedy. On one occasion Mr. Ormond was returning from Geelong to Borriyalloak. The shadows of the bush were deepening with the fading light. As he rode on he observed, some distance from the track, two or three mounted men whose attitude awakened some suspicion. One of them, detaching himself from his companions, intercepted Mr. Ormond, and called on him to stop. He recognised the voice as that of a man who had left his service some time previously, and he replied, "Ah, Jack. Good evening—a fine night for riding." "Oh, Mr. Ormond," the other exclaimed, "is that you? I didn't recognise you. I thought you were so-and-so"—mentioning another name, and he turned back to rejoin his friends. Mr. Ormond believed their purpose was to prey on lonely travellers, but that Jack, on recognising him, had not the courage to carry out his intention. Later news which he received confirmed his suspicion, for it was reported that a band of bushrangers were scouring that part of the country.

## CHAPTER V

### A SPLENDID ACHIEVEMENT

AT the close of June 1858, a remarkable trial took place at Ballarat before Judge Barry, which caused a good deal of surprise, and involved a long and arduous journey to Mr. Ormond, undertaken in the interest of justice and to prevent the unnecessary sacrifice of human life. Daniel Healy was placed at the bar charged with the wilful murder of William Ruddock, who had been cook and hut-keeper on Mr. Robert Adams's Mount Elephant Station. Mr. Ormond, as the nearest magistrate, had carefully investigated the case and had taken depositions both at the hut and the homestead. He was quite satisfied at the time from his own knowledge of the character and habits of the deceased, as well as from his knowledge of the reputation borne by the accused, that Ruddock's death was entirely accidental, and he felt persuaded there was no need to carry it to a higher court. But Healy, without any reference to Mr. Ormond, was presented on the criminal charge, the only evidence against him being his own confession, made repeatedly while he was in a state bordering on mental imbecility caused by excessive indulgence in strong drink, that he by his own deliberate act had killed the man. In

his sober senses when brought face to face with the awful peril in which he stood, he solemnly repudiated his confession and disclaimed connection with the crime—if crime there were. Mr. Ormond's testimony would have been of supreme importance and would have tended to exonerate Healy from the crime with which he was charged, but for some reason, known only to the prosecutor, Mr. Ormond was not required to appear, nor were the depositions, which he was known to have taken, produced; the result being that the jury found Healy guilty, with a recommendation to mercy, and the judge, in face of his protestations of innocence, passed sentence of death upon him.

Late one evening, the Rev. W. J. Taggart, the Presbyterian Minister of Skipton, arrived at Borriyalloak, carrying with him the Melbourne mail, which had reached the township just as he was leaving it. Mr. Ormond read in the newspapers the report of Healy's trial and was amazed at the result. In two days the execution was appointed to take place. His sense of justice was shocked. He felt himself constrained to make every effort to save an innocent man from death. What he could do must be done quickly. He had only forty-eight hours and a long journey to accomplish before he could set the machinery of the law in motion to prevent this great wrong. He ordered two of his best horses to be brought in, and, hastily equipping himself for the journey, he set out for Melbourne, riding one horse and leading the other—pressing on through Pitfield and Shelford in the lonely

hours of the night. When the horse he rode showed signs of exhaustion, he turned it loose, to find its own way home, and mounted the other. There were no roads then—"it was a point to point race, Borriyal-loak to Melbourne, and the prize—a man's life."

But there were rivers—bridgeless rivers, that were sometimes hard to ford. When he arrived at Little River he found it in flood, and was delayed for some time in searching for a suitable place to cross. Whether he rested for a while or got a relay is not now known ; but he arrived at Melbourne at five o'clock in the evening, having ridden hard the previous night and day. When he presented himself at the Old Court-house in Latrobe Street, the Attorney-General was closing his day's business and about to leave for home. Mr. Ormond requested an interview on a matter of great importance. "Too late : it is after office hours," was the Minister's reply. But Mr. Ormond insisted that the case was urgent and demanded immediate attention, as Healy was to be executed the following day. The Attorney-General finally yielded, went through the depositions, and saw that a grave error had been made. The execution was stayed pending a full investigation of the case. Healy's innocence was proved, and the Governor, by the advice of the Executive Council, ordered his liberation from gaol. The press, in closing its comments on the trial, said, "The public are disposed to be grateful to the police generally for their efforts to bring offenders to justice ; but it cannot be tolerated that cases of a description similar to this are to be frequently repeated, simply for the



purpose of adding to the laurels of our smart detectives."

Taking all the circumstances into account, it was a heroic thing to do to make such strenuous endeavour to save a life which the evidence demonstrated to be of such little moral worth; but Mr. Ormond acted as he did because, behind the outward, gross, and unclean character of the accused, he saw the potential greatness of a man, made in God's image and capable of renewal, though sorely marred by sin, and the thought revolted him that an innocent man was lying under doom of a felon's death.

## CHAPTER VI

### WORKING TOWARDS HIGH IDEALS

MR. ORMOND now occupied himself with the ordinary routine of station life, occasionally varied by the performance of public duties which his office of magistrate entailed upon him. A great success had crowned his labours. Borriyalloak was one of the finest pastoral properties in the West, abundantly watered and with fat pastures that seemed always to clothe the slopes of Widderin in robes of green, and some of his neighbours at least were men of good social standing and of wide culture. Mr. William Anderson, at Banongil, and his brother, Alexander, at Baangal, presented two of the best types of our Australian pioneers. Mr. William Mitchell, of Langi Willi, was a man of liberal education and refinement, whose hospitable roof sheltered Henry Loch (subsequently the popular Governor of Victoria) and Henry Kingsley (the author of *Geoffrey Hamlyn*). Mr. Marjoribanks was at Mount Emu, and Mr. Philip Russell at Carngham. These and others of like stamp gave character and tone to the social life of the district.

Mr. Ormond pressed his way to a position of wide influence in the West, discharging all his duties with a

gentle courtesy, moving about among men with a quiet dignity, applying himself with unremitting diligence to the improvement of his flocks and to advancing the market value of his wool, never letting go the high ideals which he had set before him, but working with steady purpose towards their realisation.

On June 5, 1859, he had to mourn the death of his mother, for whom he entertained a deep affection. She was a very gentle and good woman, true to the best Scottish traditions, attached to her Church, and loyal to her faith. She stood high in the esteem of all who knew her. Her son was warmly devoted to her. Her influence upon him was such as to touch his heart and to inspire him with lofty aims.

The year following he was constrained by the state of his wife's health to arrange for a visit to Europe. With tender consideration for the well-being of the young people whose instruction he had taken in hand, he now provided for their education on the lines of his own personal work among them, and having concluded his arrangements for the management of his business affairs, he sailed for Europe in the s.s. *Emu*. Having his mind full of projects not yet matured, not yet even taking definite shape, but with mind quite open and impressible, ready to receive suggestions and influences which, like seed in fertile soil, would germinate and grow and fructify, he landed in England, where, having fairly settled down, and freed from anxiety regarding his wife's health, he made the best use of his opportunities to acquaint himself with the

great educational interests and schemes which stood conspicuously out in public view. In London he attended lectures and meetings, at which he never failed to gather something that helped him to a higher ground, and always nearer to the aim that he set before him.

He went down to Scotland and gave a deeply interested attention to the work of secondary education. There he came into touch with Dr. Guthrie, who was spoken of by the London *Times* as perhaps "the greatest living master of the pathetic." Mr. Ormond heard the great preacher's appeal on behalf of Ragged Schools, for which he was endeavouring to raise funds in the Scottish capital. The efforts of charitable persons he compared to a man who dropped a pebble in a still pool. A ring was raised upon the surface which grew larger and larger, until at last the effect upon the pool was beyond all proportion greater than the size of the pebble would warrant. The figure impressed Mr. Ormond, and clung to him. His sympathies were at once awakened and took a practical form. He decided to help forward the movement, and, over and beyond the immediate generous donation which he gave, he undertook to provide for the education of a poor boy, who afterwards emigrated to Canada, and won success in that great land where so many of Scotland's poorer sons have found both wealth and fame.

A keen and intelligent observer, he spent much time in profitable travel, visiting the Continent of Europe, acquainting himself with life and men in old historic centres, dropping here and there substantial tokens of

his broad and enlightened sympathy with the educational institutions of even foreign lands—to use his own phrase, “ he formed the habit of dropping pebbles into the water with, he believed, beneficial and considerable effect.”

Mr. Ormond returned to Victoria towards the close of 1861. He gave his attention now to the extension and improvement of his station property. He bought Baangal from Mr. Alexander Anderson, built a new, commodious homestead, with a spacious wool-shed at Borriyalloak, and abandoned the old house which stood near the ford on the Emu Creek. It had served its purpose well, and had its own unwritten story of privations, toils, and happy dreams. Its walls rang at times with social mirth, for the bluff but genial sailor, Captain Ormond, occasionally travelled from Aberdeen Street, Geelong, to enjoy the hospitality of his son ; and a frequent visitor at Borriyalloak in that far back time was Mrs. Elizabeth Austin, of Barwon Park, whose name, in evidence of her splendid philanthropy, is inscribed on one of the noblest institutions of our land ; and who knows whether seed-corn sown there in social talk may not have reached her heart, and had something to do with the beneficence in which her name is so nobly enshrined ?

In dry seasons when the creek fell low and pastures went bare, wells were sunk to water the flocks, and the labour of filling the troughs from the wells, which sometimes began at three o'clock in the early morning, taxed the whole available strength of the people on the station. Though not so infested with kangaroos as the

country further west, about Glenormiston and Minjah, where battues were organised to slaughter them, yet they were numerous enough in the early days on Borriyalloak and had to be unceasingly contended against in the interest of the flocks.

## CHAPTER VII

### BROADENING OF THE STREAM OF BENEFICENCE

EARLY in 1866, Mr. Ormond left a competent manager in charge of Borriyalloak, and made a second visit to Europe, where he resumed his old lines of investigation into the constitution and working of educational institutions, and began to formulate a scheme which he believed would be of advantage to his adopted land. For he had a great love for Australia, not a love that refused to see defects, but just because it saw them longed, by the creation of educational facilities, to improve the conditions of life, and to bring out all that is best in the Australian character. When manhood suffrage became the law of Victoria, the importance of what an English statesman described as "educating our masters" was forced upon his attention. He saw, to use his own words, "the necessity of combining knowledge with power, and strenuously insisted on the urgency of educating the children of the Colony in the best possible manner, and up to the highest standard attainable in the limited time the children of the working classes can continue at school." And in order that Christian truth might catch the eye, touch the heart and influence the life of lonely dwellers in the outskirts of settlement, he, for a long time, paid for the

publication of sermons in the weekly papers which had a wide circulation in the bush.

In the year 1867 he returned to Victoria from his second visit to Europe, having had a somewhat eventful passage in the P. & O. s.s. *Surat*, which went ashore in the Red Sea. Mr. Ormond helped to jettison the coal in order to lighten the ship. Boats were sent to Suez to carry tidings of the wreck. Steps were at once taken to render the assistance which the case required, and all the passengers were taken off in safety.

Soon after his return to Victoria he began to move for the erection of a new church at Skipton. The original building had served its purpose well enough in earlier days, but it was now felt to be too small and unsuitable for the requirements of the congregation. Mr. Ormond now desired to see a church that would not only reflect the growing prosperity of the district, but be a public expression of the people's piety and fulness of devotion to the service of God. He therefore moved, early in 1869, for the erection of a new church, and, in order to stimulate the people to generous giving, he subscribed £300 to the building fund. The congregation responded in a liberal spirit to the appeal that was made to them, and a handsome church of stone, with a graceful spire, was built on a commanding site, overlooking the valley in which the village lies.

Isabella Sutherland, Mr. Ormond's sister, died on December 11, 1871. He was very warmly attached to her. Her radiant beauty of character powerfully appealed to his heart, and he desired to perpetuate her memory by the erection of two stained glass windows



in St. George's Church, Geelong. He had procured two chaste designs of windows to be put one on each side of the pulpit. But when Captain Ormond heard of it, he begged that it might not be done. He, too, had been bound to his daughter by cords of strongest affection. Her amiability and winsomeness had captured all hearts, and he could not bear to have the remembrance of his loss brought back to him every time he entered the House of God. His son at once deferred to his father's wishes, and abandoned that specific mode of expressing his abiding love through these memorials of the dead, though his abandonment of it was a cause of keen disappointment to him.

The Rev. Dr. Adam Cairns suggested to him, on one occasion, that any money which he desired to devote to the benefit of his fellow colonists might be profitably expended in the promotion of some form of higher education. That, of course, fell into line with his own views, and towards the close of the year 1872 he consulted the Rev. Dr. Campbell, his father's minister, on the same subject. His counsel was that as he could not gratify his wishes in placing the windows in the church he might apply their estimated cost—some £300—to assist in founding a scholarship in our Theological Hall. Mr. Ormond at once fell in with that suggestion, and after mature deliberation, gave not £300, but £1,000, which was our first scholarship, founded for undergraduates and worth £50 per annum.

Towards the close of 1875 Captain Ormond died at St. Leonard's, Aberdeen Street, Geelong. He was greatly respected. For upwards of thirty years he had

lived among the people an honourable and unblemished life, and many of the principal settlers of the district were present at the interment of his remains in the quiet cemetery overlooking the beautiful Corio Bay.

Mr. Ormond now took a house at Toorak, and joined with Sir James MacBain, the Hon. James Balfour, and others in establishing the Presbyterian Church there. His consistent Christian character, pronounced evangelical convictions, and unswerving loyalty to truth commended him to the congregation; he was duly called to the eldership and ordained by the Rev. Murdoch Macdonald on May 2, 1876. With all faithfulness he fulfilled the duties of that high office, and manifested an interest that never waned, not only in the continued prosperity of the congregation but in the general work of the Church, in which he actively participated, either as convener or as member of various committees. He cordially acknowledged his indebtedness to Dr. Macdonald's preaching, which was marked by a clear enunciation of Gospel truth, expressed at times in terse phraseology and represented in such new and startling light that it impressed, and stimulated, and carried strong conviction to the heart. Mr. Ormond felt that he owed much to Dr. Macdonald's ministry, for behind all his public work in the pulpit there was a potent personality stamped with a spiritual force and attractiveness which made his influence operative in the lives of men.

In 1878 Mr. Ormond gave, unsolicited, £500 to complete the Toorak Church, and at the opening of the

new wing of Trinity College in that year, he was so impressed with the value of University Colleges that even then there took vague shape before his mind the scheme which, later, had such splendid embodiment in the great institution that bears his name.

## CHAPTER VIII

### A CHERISHED HOPE OF THE CHURCH REALISED

WHEN the Act for the incorporation and endowment of the University of Melbourne was passed in the year 1853, wise provision was made for the establishment of affiliated colleges, where students in academic training for the learned professions might reside under Christian rule and discipline, and receive instruction on the lines of their own ecclesiastical connection, and where candidates for the ministry of the Church might be equipped intellectually for the holy office to which they aspired. It affords proof of the sagacity of the Government of the day that, while comprehensive secular instruction was made the duty of the University, the establishment of affiliated colleges was contemplated, in which Christian training under competent teachers would be an important factor in the formation of character.

Four sites of ten acres each were therefore set apart for denominational purposes, no power being given to any of the churches concerned either to mortgage or sell the land. The Anglicans were the first to enter into occupation and erect a college to which they gave the name of Trinity. The Presbyterian Church had long contemplated the desirability of using the site

allotted to it, but was restrained from proceeding with the required building, partly from want of adequate funds, and partly because of the unceasing demands made upon its energies and resources to supply the spiritual needs of an ever-growing population. In the year 1874 the site was enclosed, but nothing further was done till 1877, when the Minister of Public Instruction (Mr. Pearson) wrote to Dr. Morrison inquiring whether the Church intended to take immediate steps to occupy the land for the purpose for which it was reserved. Otherwise, an arrangement might be made according to which it could be sold, half the proceeds of sale to be retained by the State for University purposes, the other half to be given to the Presbyterian Church.

That communication galvanised the General Assembly into action. On the motion of Dr. Alexander Morrison, of Scotch College, it was unanimously resolved that, from every point of view, the time was ripe for initiating a movement to build and endow a college which should serve the two important objects of providing (1) for students attending classes at the University a place of residence, where they would be comfortably housed and superintended by competent and responsible tutors; and (2) a Theological Hall for the efficient training of a Gospel ministry. Another important consideration determined the Assembly to take immediate action in the direction indicated. In the Melbourne University, owing partly to financial limitations, partly to the religious scruples of a section of the public, certain subjects, accounted of supreme

importance in the great historic seats of learning in Britain, had no place at all in the Melbourne curriculum. There was at that period no chair of modern languages, none of English literature, none of mental and moral philosophy. Such a college as was now contemplated, it was felt, might supply that lack. Trustees of the site were therefore appointed, with whom were associated in committee a number of influential friends of the Church, Dr. Morrison naturally holding the office of convener. That committee was instructed to use its best endeavours to raise a fund of £10,000 for the object in view. A meeting was convened at which six persons were present, among them being Mr. Ormond, who subscribed £300 to the fund.

With further consideration of the scheme the conviction deepened that a larger sum than that originally contemplated would be required to carry out the objects which the Church proposed, namely (1) the erection of a suitable building, (2) an endowment for the head of the college, (3) exhibitions or bursaries for theological students to enable them to go into residence. As the scheme expanded and its advantages and utility became more apparent, the stream of liberality began to flow more freely. Mr. Ormond's subscription was raised from £300 to £500. Then, in order to stimulate the liberality of others, he offered to subscribe £1,000 provided the sum of £9,000 were received from other sources. Wealthy landowners of the day rose to the occasion, and the building-fund now stood at £6,000.

Meanwhile, the projected enterprise received Mr. Ormond's most earnest and thoughtful attention. He became deeply impressed with the influence for good which it was fitted to exercise on the future welfare of the Church and Colony, and, unsolicited, he promised the large donation of £10,000, provided the friends of the Church subscribed a like sum (that is, £4,000 in addition to the £6,000 already subscribed) before the close of the year. Strenuous efforts were made to put the Church in a position to claim the generous gift. That was accomplished within the stipulated time, and Mr. Ormond gave his cheque for £10,000.

The General Assembly recorded its appreciation of his large liberality, and resolved that, as a mark of its high sense of the benefits conferred by him upon the Church, the new affiliated institution should bear his name. Mr. Ormond, with characteristic modesty, opposed the resolution, and desired that the projected college should be otherwise designated, but he was overborne; he yielded to the pressure of opinion, and the decision of the General Assembly stood.

A constitution was drawn up which required that the institution should be governed by a Council of twenty-four members, comprising eight trustees, eight members appointed by the General Assembly, and eight by the subscribers. Suitable designs and specifications were approved by the Council, and the contract for the construction of the building was let in October 1877. The amount of the contract was first fixed at £16,457, but a tower, fittings, and other additions were

subsequently agreed upon, and the total cost was now estimated at £22,500, exclusive of the cost of furnishing. The question of endowment came up in November 1878, and Mr. Ormond, always eager to awaken and encourage a spirit of self-sacrifice and liberality in others, offered to give £2,500 to begin the fund, if £7,500 were subscribed by the public. The council, full of wonder at his large generosity, gratefully accepted the terms of the gift.

And now, having leased Borriyalloak to his brother-in-law, Mr. Ormond, on December 28, 1878, sailed for England in the s.s. *Assam*, purposing to make a prolonged visit to Europe. He carried a commission as one of the delegates to represent the Presbyterian Church of Victoria at the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches of Great Britain, and at the meeting of the Pan-Presbyterian Council to be held at Philadelphia, U.S.A. But in consequence of the illness of Mrs. Ormond, he was unable to leave Europe. He attended, however, the various Church meetings that were held both in Edinburgh and London, and made good use of the opportunities presented to him to speak on the work and outlook of our Church in Australia.

He made diligent and exhaustive inquiries into the working of educational institutions in Great Britain and on the Continent—elementary, technical, and musical—gathering diligently from all available sources vast stores of information, with a view to turning them to practical account in his adopted country. He made a hurried visit to Spain, going



as far as Madrid, in company with some Australian friends who joined his party.

On his return to Britain he gave evidence of the largeness of his heart and the wideness of his human sympathies at a meeting at which he happened to be present. A missionary bishop made, on that occasion, a touching appeal on behalf of a training seminary which he conducted. At the close of the meeting Mr. Ormond accosted him and delighted him by an offer of an annual contribution "from a Presbyterian elder from Australia," greatly in excess of the entire collection taken.

## CHAPTER IX

### REJOICINGS AT A GREAT PUBLIC FUNCTION

ON November 14, 1879, there was a brilliant gathering of public men on the block of land which had been assigned to the Presbyterian Church for college purposes in the University reserve. It was the occasion of laying the foundation stone of Ormond College—a function that stirred many hearts to devout thanksgiving, and that seemed to many to be an augury of boundless possibility of blessing to us: for never before in the history of our State had any living hand poured such wealth of beneficence on our Church, and opened up broad pathways by which men might enter, and equip themselves with needed scholarship for the due performance of Christian work.

The ceremony was performed by His Excellency the Marquis of Normanby, Governor of Victoria, and around him were some of our foremost and best-respected citizens—dignitaries of the Anglican Church, politicians, and ministers of the Crown. The Rev. James Megaw, Moderator of the General Assembly, fittingly opened the proceedings with devotional exercises. The event was celebrated by a *déjeuner* in the Athenæum Hall, at which were present people

of all denominations interested in the work of education.

The Marquis of Normanby, in the course of an interesting speech, admitted that much as he rejoiced to see education in this Colony in the position it now was, he, as an individual, would have been better pleased had it been combined with religious education. But such a thing in a community like this, where there were so many denominations, was, in his opinion, simply impossible. It was very desirable, however, that means should be employed to enable the young men of the country to obtain a religious education if they were so inclined. He believed that the duty of giving instruction in religious knowledge might be, and to a great extent ought to be, performed by parents and by religious instructors, without in the least undervaluing the system of primary education; but still the teaching by parents was inadequate, and for that matter so would be the religious instruction that would be imparted in schools. He had been taught religion at school in England, but if he had depended upon that, he should not have been able now to claim much knowledge. He considered that for young men who wished to enter the ministry, the learned professions, or the higher branches of political life, it was necessary that there should be the means of obtaining more information and knowledge than could be obtained at school. He rejoiced to see a University established in the Colony, but a University was not in itself sufficient, because it could not produce satisfactory results unless there

were a number of resident students ; and it was most desirable that young men at the age when they attended a University should not be turned loose in a great city like Melbourne. It was therefore very pleasing to see affiliated colleges like Ormond College springing up round the University. He trusted the munificence of Mr. Ormond would prove an incentive to the other colonists to follow his example.

The Bishop of Melbourne (Dr. Moorhouse), who threw himself with all his keen, strong intellect and sound judgment into the movement for the restoration of the Bible into the State schools, spoke wise and weighty words on that occasion, which I am glad to have the opportunity of reproducing here. He said : " When His Excellency and other gentlemen mentioned religious education in his presence, they must know that the phrase was to him like the sound of a trumpet in the ears of an old war-horse. If religious education mingled with secular was an impossibility in this Colony, then, he thought, the Church had come to a new point of departure. If that were the state of things, they must be prepared for the entrance of a new law into Victorian life—the law of natural selection. Each Church would have to concentrate all its attention upon the religious instruction of its own children, and there would be one set of children carefully disciplined in purity, truthfulness, and piety, and another set—whom the various Churches could not reach, and who would not be taught by their parents—a set without religious discipline, and wanting in self-control, and therefore more liable to fall into

habits of idleness and vice. These two sets would come into conflict in the battle of life, idleness and vice in that conflict would have to go to the wall, and we should have the law of natural selection, and the survival of the fittest. Then would be seen the vast importance of having institutions like Ormond College multiplied amongst us."

To no one of all those who were present on that occasion did this event afford more satisfaction than it did to the Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C., who had always displayed the keenest interest in the forward movements of our Church. With clear discernment of the supreme need for an ably equipped Theological Hall to enable our Church to hold her own, and to push out with bold aggressiveness to the furthest borders of the State, he had moved in the General Assembly, at an early date, that action be taken to provide an endowment fund for the payment of stipends of theological professors. A committee was appointed, of which Mr. Balfour was made convener; and, with the active co-operation of the Rev. Dr. Campbell and others, he had pressed the claims of the fund so urgently and to such good purpose on the attention of our people, that from Sir James McCulloch and many more came generous subscriptions amounting to nearly £15,000.

## CHAPTER X

### GLAD NEWS FROM PAU

PAU is a cosmopolitan French town, chief city of the old kingdom of Bearn, now capital of the department of Basses-Pyrénées, on the right bank of the Gave-de-Pau; of wide fame for its mountain views, it attracts tourists from almost every land. It is a favourite resort of Britons, many of whom migrate thither to escape the rigorous winters of the British Isles. Like many mediæval towns, it has its picturesque old castle, which dates back to the fourteenth century, a notable building of great historic interest. It was the birthplace of Henri of Navarre, the fourth King of that name, called in derision "the Béarnais," but known to history as the "Great" and the "Good," who signed at Nantes the edict which secured to the Protestants of France liberty of conscience, and the impartial administration of justice to all. Mr. Ormond spent some weeks in the Pyrenees, his steps guided thither by consideration for the health of his wife.

Far away in his home at Pau, he learned both through private letters and the public press of the great function in Melbourne which had thrilled with

joy so many hearts, and was full of gracious promise for the future of both Church and State, and, out of the fulness of his heart that was always devising liberal things, he addressed the following letter, dated February 5, 1880, to Dr. Morrison, Convener of the Affiliated College Committee :

“ MY DEAR SIR,

“ By letters and newspapers to hand last month, I notice that the interesting ceremony of laying the foundation-stone of our College was performed by His Excellency the Governor, in the presence of a large assemblage of ladies and gentlemen ; as also an account of the subsequent large and successful meeting at the Athenæum, where suitable and instructive speeches were delivered by the Marquis of Normanby, the Bishop of Melbourne, and a number of other leading men (clerical and lay) of the Colony.

“ The widespread interest taken in the College, and good wishes expressed for its success, must, I feel sure, be very gratifying and encouraging to the donors, and, as a donor, I desire to convey my best thanks to all friends for the interest evinced by them in our undertaking, especially to His Excellency the Governor for the honour conferred upon us by his laying the foundation-stone, and attending the meeting at the Athenæum Hall, where he in so kind a way proposed ‘ Prosperity to the College.’ I sincerely trust that the hope then expressed by the Marquis, that he would see the building completed and occupied before the expiration of his term of office, will be

realised, and that he will favour us by kindly taking part at the opening ceremonial of our institution, which is founded for the higher education, training, discipline, and development of the intellectual and moral powers of those who, it is to be hoped, will in the future exercise an important and sensible influence in the religious, social, and political affairs of our country.

“From what I recollect of the plan-elevation, the building will be large, suitable, scholastic-looking, and architecturally handsome. So far good ; but in order to accomplish all that is desired and expected, the College when erected must be fully and properly equipped tutorially.

“In view of that there must be an endowment for professors, and a reasonably large one too. Liberal gifts will therefore be needed, and every effort ought to be made, not only to open a complete and unencumbered College, but one provided with an efficient working staff of teachers. Towards such a consummation, on being advised that the condition contained in the latter part of my letter of October 29, 1878, has been complied with, I shall offer to pay the cost, (£2,571) of erection of tower to College, and further to contribute £2,500 in augmentation, or rather as commencement of endowment fund for professors—provided that £7,500 are raised from other sources before the close of this year. Already the Church has an endowment fund amounting to about £15,000, and this additional £10,000 would give us £25,000 as an endowment for salaries for our professors. I hope my



proposal will meet with the approval of the College Council and sympathy of wealthy and influential colonists. If so, a grand start will be given to our undertaking, and the public will be assured of the earnestness of our desire to help forward and promote the higher culture and fuller development of the intellectual powers of our young men. When we get this professorship endowment established, we must seek for help from our friends in the way of scholarships. At present we have, I think, only five. Let us hope that this number will shortly be doubled, and while on this subject I may state that, as my scholarship is more particularly to assist those who may be destitute of private means, I purpose considering the desirableness of increasing the annual value of same.

“ I am, my dear Sir,

“ Yours sincerely,

“ F. ORMOND.”

The publication of that letter awakened feelings of profound thankfulness, not only in the Church, but also beyond its bounds, for it was felt that the display of such a public spirit could not fail to have the best influence on the general community ; while the object towards which such large sums of money were devoted was one which, when fully carried out, might prove a national blessing of immeasurable worth.

The best thanks of the Council were tendered to Mr. Ormond with an intimation that they cordially accept his generous offer, and are resolved to make a vigorous effort to raise the £7,500 within the time specified.

A committee was appointed to consider and report on the whole question of the endowment of Ormond College, to draft a constitution for it, defining the duties of the head of the College, and his relation to the Council, also to indicate the number, duties, and relations of any teaching staff which it may be found necessary to appoint to conduct the institution in the twofold capacity of a college of residence for students attending the University, and a theological hall for the training of ministers.

## CHAPTER XI

### MASTER OF ORMOND COLLEGE ; AND A NEW SURPRISE TO THE COUNCIL

THE Council of Ormond College recommended the General Assembly to offer to the Rev. Dr. J. Oswald Dykes, of London, the appointment of president of the College and principal of the Theological Hall at a salary of £1,500 per annum, or £1,250 with residence. It was felt that if Dr. Dykes could be induced to accept the appointment they would secure a president of commanding powers and known reputation, who would not only occupy a leading position in the Church, but exert a moral and religious influence that would beneficially affect the whole community.

Dr. Dykes, during his all too brief stay in Melbourne from 1864-6, impressed himself very deeply, not only on the students, but on the public mind. "He rendered splendid service in many ways. He won the confidence and affection and reverent admiration of all who came in closeness of contact with him. His urbanity, sweet courtesy of manner, and invariably respectful and tenderly sympathetic treatment of the students all through the course, won their ardent and enduring affection. They felt the spell of his fine

mind, his wide culture, his marvellous freshness and beauty of style, and the alluring power of his lofty spirituality; while his fresh and fascinating way of presenting truth awakened their keenest interest and stimulated to the utmost all the powers of their intellectual and moral nature. And outside that special work, through pulpit and press, the Church at large felt the beneficent influences that flowed out upon it from his voice and pen." \*

That was all before the minds of the Council and present to the minds of many in the Assembly. And all who loved Victoria, and who longed to feel a commanding intellectual and spiritual influence giving tone to our College life and guiding the counsels of our Church, awaited with a prayerful interest Dr. Dykes' reply.

His declinature of the office caused deep regret. It was therefore unanimously resolved that for the present no further effort should be made to procure a professor of theology from the Homeland, and that the training of theological students should be conducted as heretofore by temporary arrangements. It was also resolved to appoint a commissioner in Britain to select a principal of Ormond College, emphasis being laid on scholastic attainments combined with business capacity; and as it was believed that little difficulty would be experienced in procuring in the Colony efficient tutorial assistance in classics, the commissioner was instructed to have special regard to mathematical attainments in making his selection.

\* "The Scottish Church in Victoria, 1851-1901."



DR. MACFARLAND.

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Dr. Dykes, on receiving the commission from the Council, immediately took the matter in hand, and, after consulting with Mr. Ormond (who was then in London), he offered the appointment to Mr. John Henry McFarland, M.A., a distinguished scholar who took high honours at Queen's College, Belfast, and subsequently removed to St. John's, Cambridge. He was elected a foundation scholar of the college in 1874, and graduated among the wranglers in the Mathematical Tripos of 1876. Immediately after taking his degree, he was appointed to a mastership at Repton, which he held until his selection for Ormond.

Regarding this appointment, Dr. Dykes wrote to the convener, under date London, December 9, 1880 :  
 “. . . Mr. Ormond and I were both favourably impressed by Mr. McFarland's gentlemanly and, at the same time, business-like appearance and manner. It is possible Mr. Ormond has already indicated as much to you, but I may extract a short sentence from a note I had from him, dated December 1 last : ‘ As far as one may judge from a candidate's appearance and conversation, he is the most likely of all those you have had before you to suit ; and putting all things together, he is to my mind just the manner of man we require for the position.’

“ It has been a very great help and encouragement to me throughout this business that I have had the constant advice of a gentleman so judicious and so warmly interested in the College as Mr. Ormond. Indeed, without his co-operation I do not know that I could have assumed the responsibility of making so

grave an appointment. The Council will, I am sure, be greatly encouraged when they know that the selection made has the full approval of the generous donor whose name the College bears."

Mr. McFarland arrived in the Colony on February 22, 1881, and entered at once upon his duties, being assisted by a staff of distinguished graduates chosen either from the Melbourne or from one or other of the Home Universities. He was cordially welcomed at a meeting of Council held a few days after his arrival. It was then agreed that the practice of each student of furnishing his own quarters, which prevails in the colleges in the Homeland, should not be followed here, but that the Council should furnish comfortably and substantially both bedrooms and sitting-rooms, and that the title of the head of the College should be "Master" of Ormond College.

The joy of making money is to some the salt of life : it gives piquancy and flavour to it, a zest that is altogether apart from the power or advantages which money brings. I travelled, fifty years ago, with a man who, later on, bequeathed large wealth to his son. "Why are you so eager to amass money?" one said to him. "You can't tell how your son will use it." "If he have as much joy in spending it," was the reply, "as I have in making it, it will be all right." But Mr. Ormond's joy in giving seemed to thrill his whole being with an ecstasy which the mere process of making money never caused. And it was an expanding grace. It grew to ever larger proportions with every act of beneficence. If we inquire into the



reason of that we will find that in all his giving he kept a high ideal always before him : again, he sought to educate the public to a practically sympathetic recognition of that, and then he threw himself with all his energies into the task of realising the object that he kept before him. Behind his money there was himself, for, in the eager prosecution of his great aims, he spent all life's forces just as freely as he spent his gold.

He now sprang a new and glad surprise on the Council. On February 14, 1881, he telegraphed to Dr. Morrison as follows : " I offer to bear the whole cost of the erection of that part of Ormond College now completed, and I recommend that the conditional sums raised for building be devoted to endowment and exhibitions." Later on, a letter was received confirmatory and explanatory of the telegram. He thus paid £22,500, and the whole sum subscribed by other friends of the College, amounting to upwards of £11,000, was thus set free for endowment.

And, as if that were a small thing to do, persuaded that the institution, to carry out its objects with efficiency and success, must rest on a sure financial basis, he wrote also urging the Council to raise £10,000 additional for exhibitions and endowments, and to encourage the friends of the College to contribute of their abundance in response to that pressing appeal, he promised to give £1,000 to inaugurate this new fund. The Council, with all that evidence before it of Mr. Ormond's unfaltering devotion to this great scheme, unanimously agreed to convey to him both by cable and post its grateful thanks for " his munificent liberality."

## CHAPTER XII

### FORMAL OPENING; AND ADVANTAGES OF A RESIDENTIAL COLLEGE

It has always been an imperative demand of our Church that candidates for the ministry have a liberal education and special training for the office which they aspire to fill. If at times the rule has been relaxed, it was due to circumstances which seemed to justify a departure from the rule in the interest of the work which the Church is commissioned to do. So that the school of divinity, or theological hall, is an absolutely needful and integral part of every properly organised Church.

Soon after the accomplishment of the union of the various branches of Presbyterianism in the Colony in 1859, our Assembly took steps to secure the adequate training of students for the ministry. A committee was appointed in 1862 to consider the subject and mature a scheme for the establishment of a theological hall, the best provisional arrangements being meanwhile made for carrying on the work. Dr. Dykes, as we have seen above, conducted classes for two years. When he resigned his office to return to the Homeland, recourse was again had to the old provi-

sional arrangement, according to which some of the more prominent ministers of our Church were appointed to superintend the students' work.

Now, through the splendid and spontaneous liberality of Mr. Ormond, an important stage had been reached. The Church's dream of a hall worthy of her position and influence in the State had been more than realised. She could now fling open the doors of a spacious and well-appointed College, not only to her own sons and daughters, but to all who coveted the higher learning and desired to tread the professional walks of life. On March 17, 1881, a large and distinguished company of ministers, professors, politicians, and other public men assembled at Ormond College, on the occasion of the formal opening of the institution, which was a brilliant event in our colonial history.

The Rev. Allan MacVean, Moderator of the General Assembly, after devotional exercises, briefly addressed His Excellency the Marquis of Normanby, who, having thanked the promoters of the movement for affording him a second opportunity of associating his name with the establishment of the College, formally declared the building opened.

Dr. Morrison, who presided at the *déjeuner* provided in a large marquee erected on the ground, read the following telegram from Pau, received from Mr. Ormond: "I send my hearty congratulations to the Council of Ormond College and to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, on the successful completion of the building. Convey to His Excellency the Governor

and the assembled guests my hearty wishes for their enjoyment, and for the prosperity of the institution whose opening they have met to celebrate. I hope the College may prove a blessing to the Colony." When the applause that followed the reading of that telegram had ceased, the chairman announced that the Council had asked the public to provide ten bursaries, in order to show an appreciation of the magnificent liberality of Mr. Ormond, and he was glad to say they had received twelve—eight of the annual value of £50 each, tenable for three years, and four of the annual value of £25 each.

The Marquis of Normanby, after paying a high tribute to the value of a religious education, said: "One of the great advantages of a university education, as it was understood at Oxford and Cambridge, was the collecting of young men in colleges, where they were kept under proper supervision, and where they learned to conduct themselves in a proper manner. He trusted in the Ormond College, from its very opening, that students would ever bear in mind that it was their duty and privilege to build up the character and to maintain the reputation of the College at which they resided. They must always bear in mind that if they did any mean or wrong thing, not only would they damage their own reputation, but also the reputation of the College to which they belonged. If an *esprit de corps* of that kind were once established in a College, they might depend upon it that, if one or two evil-disposed students unfortunately became connected with the College the

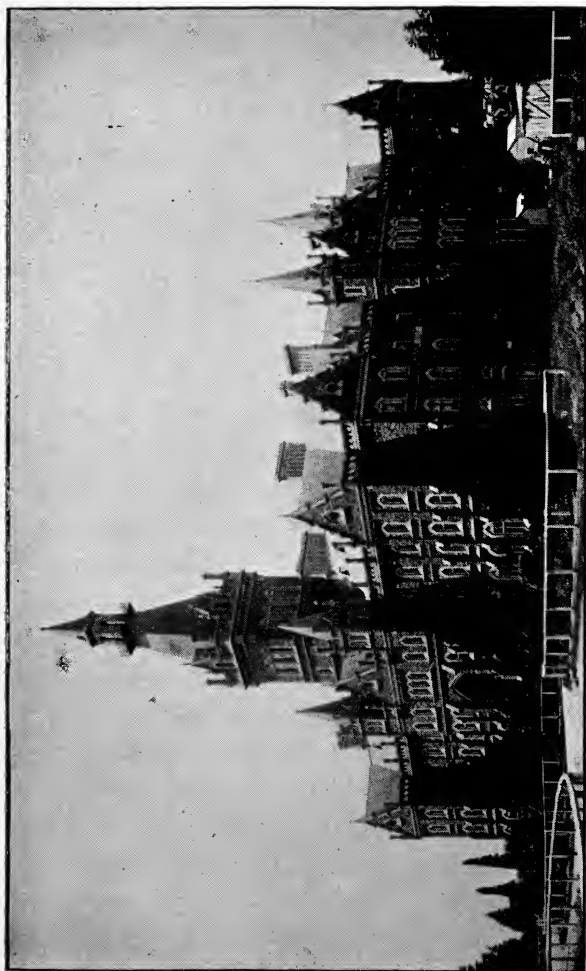
other students would always keep them in order. There was no doubt that the force of example of their fellow-collegians did more to keep young men straight, and to prevent them doing those things which they ought not to do, than any supervision which the masters could exercise." A number of other interesting speeches were delivered by public men.

Many of our older ministers in their student days, when attending classes, lived in private rooms: independence in this respect had almost become a tradition in the Scottish Universities. But a change seems to be foreshadowed in a proposal which is now under consideration for the establishment, in connection with the Carnegie Trust, of residential hostels. It has been suggested that the present method of assisting deserving students (that is, payment of fees) should be modified, if not abandoned, in favour of the establishment of collegiate hostels. University residences for students have been established in certain Scottish centres either by private or semi-public enterprise, and they are found to serve a very useful purpose, for the lack of any common social life is admittedly a defect of the Scottish universities. The present movement therefore contemplates an approach to the residential system which is so prominent a feature of Oxford, Cambridge, and the Assembly's College, Belfast, and it is believed that if the Carnegie Trustees would apply that part of the money at present devoted to the payment of fees to providing accommodation in hostels for students attending classes, a far-reaching and desirable im-

provement would be effected in Scottish university life.

The whole influences of such a system are wholesome and vitalising, and among the most formative that the student knows: they are calculated to awaken and properly direct the intellect, break down factitious distinctions of wealth and birth, and bring into open and clear recognition and favour the great and heroic qualities that give lustre to character and real nobility to human life. The association of members of the various faculties in the college is of prime importance and offers advantages that may be of immeasurable worth. The men who are trained in theology within its walls gain in breadth of view and in knowledge of those who have chosen other spheres of life and work, and who have other interests and ideals than those which *they* make peculiarly their own. Mutual sympathies are thus awakened and a sense of appreciation whose moral value it is hard to appraise.

On the other hand, if the gain to theological students be great from coming into close contact in residence with those who are qualifying for degrees in medicine, law, engineering and science, they, on their part, contribute to the elevation of the moral and religious tone of academic life. For the men who, in politics, law, and science, are to be the leaders of the next generation, cannot breathe a Christian atmosphere and be untouched by its influences: they cannot live in daily intercourse with those who are qualifying for the work of the Christian ministry without having awakened within them some sense of serious responsi-



ORMOND COLLEGE.

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bility which will tend to lift them up to higher levels and make them influential for good among their fellow-men.

Mr. Ormond had thus a twofold object in view in the erection of the College, namely, to unite the secular teaching of the university with a religious training that would be helpful to university students : and to ensure for the ministers of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria ample opportunity of obtaining university training before entering on their purely theological work. " Thus," as it has been said, " his splendid generosity created a noble institution, which not only adds to the social and educational prestige of the Church, but contributes in a marked degree to its real efficiency and success."

## CHAPTER XIII

### THE FOUNDER'S FIRST VISIT TO ORMOND COLLEGE; DEATH OF HIS WIFE; AND BENEFACTIONS TO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH

IN July 1880 Mr. and Mrs. Ormond visited the Brussels Exhibition, and on the 29th of that month they were in Sweden, travelling with open and wondering eyes through its low, alluvial lands, and making some stay in its charming capital, largely built on the holms of Maelar. Mr. Ormond always spoke with pleasure of his visit to Sweden, which seemed to make a lasting impression on his mind. They returned to England towards the close of 1880, and on November 25 of that year Mrs. Ormond's mother died at Bath. Some three months later arrangements were completed for their return to Australia by the *Kaisar-i-Hind*.

On their arrival at Melbourne, without making any prolonged stay in that city, Mr. Ormond went on to Sydney by the mail steamer. The Council of the College had contemplated making arrangements to give him a fitting welcome on his return to the Colony, but no intimation had been received of the time when he expected to arrive. It was therefore with

surprise that the Council learned that he had landed at Melbourne at Easter, and, eager to see the stately pile of buildings with which his name is so closely associated, he had driven past the College, and in the brief time at his disposal had simply looked at its outward appearance.

It was then arranged by the Council that a full meeting should be held on Mr. Ormond's return from New South Wales in order that he might be accorded a reception befitting his relation to the institution. But he expressed an earnest desire that no such demonstration should be made; and with that modesty of spirit which characterised his every movement in connection with that great enterprise, he, on May 16, in a quiet and unostentatious manner visited the building accompanied by Dr. Morrison and the Hon. James MacBain, and was received by the students, who were hurriedly collected by the Master in the front hall, with prolonged and enthusiastic cheers. The cordiality of the welcome which they gave him greatly affected him.

"It gives me great pleasure," he said, addressing the students, "to meet you here to-day, and for the very kind and hearty welcome you have accorded me on my first visit to this handsome and well-appointed institution. I offer you my heart-felt thanks. Knowing how much I dislike demonstration and anything like fuss, my good friends, in deference to my expressed wish, have kindly allowed me to come here this morning in a quiet way to make your acquaintance, and to go over and examine your College home. I have visited

similar institutions in the mother country and on the Continent, and from these I had in my own mind formed a standard of comparison. Without entering the College, I examined a few days ago the external aspect of the building, and though I was prepared by the reports which I received from friends, as well as from notices in the press, to see a fine and imposing building, I must confess that my expectations have been more than realised, for, architecturally, it is not only handsome, but has a very scholastic and collegiate look. As yet I have seen but little of the internal arrangements, but if I may judge of the whole by what I have seen, it certainly appears to me that nothing has been omitted to secure the comfort and convenience of the residents, and I may truthfully say that, as a residential scholastic establishment, it will bear favourable comparison with similar institutions in the mother country. The site is a grand one, and for salubrity, quiet, and convenience to the University, there is nothing further to be desired. I am very gratified with the position which the College has already attained in the estimation of the public. To open with twenty students was encouraging enough, and with that I was satisfied, yet yesterday, when I learned that that number had within a month of the opening been increased by a fourth, I was greatly rejoiced. We have accommodation for an increase of numbers, and by the Council of the College every increase will be hailed with satisfaction. . . . We have no desire to restrict the advantages of the College. We have no tests. While it is, of course, a Presbyterian institution, it is open to all

denominations. All good, right-living men who may be anxious to obtain the education—the higher education and culture which this College is intended to supply—will be welcome to our walls. But our College is intended to be more than a place of residence for students attending the University—it is also for the training of candidates for the ministry of the Presbyterian Church, and it is my wish, as it is the design of the Church and Council, to maintain the Theological Hall as the central and prominent feature in our institution. Rules and regulations have already been drawn up for the government of the College, but I have no doubt that the Council may and will from time to time alter these regulations, so as to keep abreast with the circumstances and requirements of the age.

“And now, teachers, will you permit me to say that you are largely responsible for the formation of the character of those entrusted to your care. You are here to carry on a great work, and depend upon it your life and character will be impressed upon the life and character of your pupils. Be assured that many eyes will be turned towards you, and on you will depend in a great measure the future of your students.

“And, my young friends, you must never forget what is your part. If you are to succeed it must be by your own energy and application. The province of the teacher is to direct your studies, to carry you on from point to point in learning, but the study, the learning must depend on yourselves. I thoroughly believe in education, every branch of education, and in subsidising education. I am firmly of opinion that in no

other way could I confer a greater benefit on my fellow-countrymen. I believe that education will make men more God-fearing, and better members of society. It will better enable them to perform their parts intelligently in the world and in the business of life. Education breaks down the lines of demarcation between rich and poor. I think it is Sydney Smith who says: 'A man who dedicates his life to knowledge becomes habituated to pleasure which carries with it no reproach. His pleasures are all cheap, all dignified, all innocent, and he has secured a happiness which cannot be taken from him, and which must cleave to him as long as he lives.' And now, my young friends, in conclusion, let me say that those interested in this institution have every confidence that you will perform your part in such a manner as will fully realise their expectations and repay the labour and anxiety which have been expended in establishing the College."

July 6, 1881, was a dark day at "Ognez"—Mr. Ormond's home at Toorak. His wife, who for nearly thirty years had been a wise help-meet to him, was then taken from him. She had assisted him in many ways. Her practical sympathy with him in his educational projects had greatly encouraged him. He revered her memory and spoke very tenderly of the saintliness of her life. She had a gracious, winning manner, and was a warm and affectionate friend. Her memory is perpetuated by a very beautiful stained glass memorial window which the bereaved husband placed in the south front of the Toorak Presbyterian Church.

His tender thought for her took expression in another form. He was the unknown benefactor who on October 6, 1881, offered £5,000 towards the funds of the Anglican Cathedral, on condition that the sum of £25,000 were raised from other sources before the close of that year. It was apparent enough that interest in the work was flagging. The suspension of building operations from lack of funds loomed darkly in view of the Church authorities when the announcement of Mr. Ormond's offer was made. It proved a stimulus to the generosity of the more affluent members of that communion. A meeting was convened at Bishop's Court at which an influential committee was appointed to canvass for subscriptions in aid of the Cathedral Building Fund. Within the period stipulated the sum of £21,000 was raised. That fell short of Mr. Ormond's requirement, but he generously gave some extension of time to subscribe the balance and establish their claim to his generous donation. The reason assigned for this liberality was, that Mrs. Ormond had been a member of the Church of England, and that her marriage had been solemnised by Dean Macartney in the Anglican Church at Geelong.

That did not exhaust Mr. Ormond's interest in the Cathedral Fund. At a meeting held in the Athenæum on February 20, 1888, he announced his intention to subscribe to it an additional £100.

## CHAPTER XIV

### A NOBLE ASPIRATION

WHEN the thanks of the General Assembly were publicly conveyed to Mr. Ormond in November 1881, for his magnificent gift to the College, he said, in acknowledging the courtesy: "What I have done is just the outcome of thirty years' work in an educational direction. The education of others has been, and is, a hobby with me. When scarce out of my teens, I found myself at the head of a large station on which were employed a large number of people, the children of whom, being entirely left to themselves, were growing up in a most deplorable state of ignorance. Feeling and recognising my responsibility, I formed a class of boys, and taught them, so fitting them for the better and more intelligent performance of their part in the world. In 1860, after making provision for continuing the teaching I had begun, I paid a visit to Europe, and there again my hobby led me to take an interest in Sabbath, Ragged and Higher School education, which interest has gone on enlarging till I now rejoice to find myself committed to the large and grand undertaking which I have now in hand—namely, the erection and, God willing, the completion of the noble





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building which bears my name. Verily, a great and costly undertaking ; and yet if I succeed in ever so humble a measure in making men wiser, better, and happier, which is my aim and fondest aspiration, I shall feel that the money with which God has entrusted me has been wisely spent, and that the world is so much the better for my having been born into it. Anxious to make myself better acquainted with the students and teaching staff of our College, I have during the past winter made frequent visits to the institution, and I am delighted to be able to say that the more I know of and about the working of the College, the more convinced am I of its importance and value to the Colony."

Having grounds to believe that the accommodation provided would soon be insufficient to meet the increasing demands for admission, he informed the Assembly that, if the Council deemed it advisable, he would enlarge the building, even to the full extension of the south front, and would do so in accordance with the original design, which would afford accommodation for double the present number of students, and, if necessary, he would go on enlarging till the quadrangle is formed and the great building finished. "Chairs will have to be endowed," he said, "a chapel built, the library furnished with books, a museum will be necessary : then some kind friend may donate a handsome gate, another a lodge, and so on.

"In the matter of scholarships we have much to be grateful for, there being now thirteen or fourteen bursaries, several of these being permanent endowments, and may we not hope, and that reasonably,

that the number will be further increased this year. While on this subject, let me here say that as my scholarship is more particularly to assist those who may be destitute of private means, on expiration of the present holding of my scholarship, I will, for the next term of three years, augment the bursary to £70 a year. Regarding the theological hall, which is a central and important feature in our College scheme, I echo the words of the report, and strongly urge the desirableness of appointing, at as early a date as may be, a permanent head, principal, or president, who would take up one or more of the divinity branches, as well as regulate the lecture course. Again, as the report suggests, two permanent professors might be appointed, and for this end an effort will require to be made to increase the Hall Endowment Fund from £15,000 to £30,000, the interest of which amount will be sufficient, I think, to secure and remunerate the services of two gentlemen of known ability and high standing."

Mr. Ormond made very graceful and thankful recognition of the great service rendered by Dr. Dykes in securing a Master for the College, and closed with a warm eulogy of Dr. Morrison, who had been unremitting in his attention to the interests of the College, and had displayed an ability, energy, and zeal in the performance of the manifold duties entailed on him as Chairman of the Council, which were "beyond all praise."

At the close of the valedictory address delivered to the students, in 1881, by the Rev. Alex. Adam, M.A., Moderator of the General Assembly, Mr. Ormond

said : “ I consider that we owe a deep debt of gratitude to the Rev. Mr. Campbell and the other gentlemen who, at much inconvenience to themselves, conduct our divinity classes. These gentlemen have other important duties to attend to, and I can easily understand how great must be the strain imposed upon them. Of course our theological hall arrangements are at present only temporary, and as some of the lecturers who have hitherto assisted in the work of the hall are, on account of other duties, anxious to be relieved of the hall work, the Council, at a meeting held a short time ago, recognising how important and necessary it is that a professor of theology should be appointed as permanent head, or principal of our hall, unanimously agreed that action should be taken in the matter, and resolved that an effort ought to be made to increase our endowment fund from £15,000 to £25,000. With this view the Council agreed to appropriate £5,000 of the funds in hand to the theological hall endowment, and suggested that the other moiety should be raised by contributions. The suggestion has been favourably entertained, and I am glad to say that some donations have already been promised. The question of our having a fully equipped hall being of the greatest importance and urgency, I would suggest that the work of collection be at once set about and if at once, surely we ought to have no difficulty in getting the £5,000 before the close of this year. Our theological hall fund would then amount to £25,000. It was held that a second professor should be appointed, and suggested that his salary might be

covered by a few gentlemen guaranteeing the amount for a number of years. I heartily approve of the idea, and it is gratifying and encouraging to know that on its being mooted, several gentlemen offered to give £50 each for five years. I shall be happy to take part in these expenses. I have ever favoured the idea of raising an endowment for our theological hall, and indeed for all such institutions, for I hold that it is impossible to satisfactorily carry on and make arrangements for the proper conduct of any institution when depending upon hand-to-mouth contributions. Yes, I am so thoroughly impressed with the conviction that, in reference to the proposed Working Men's College, notwithstanding that I am fully persuaded the Government will give the institution a small annual grant, it is my intention as soon as the condition imposed by me is complied with, to encourage the establishment of an endowment; and as soon as the sum I have already conditioned for is in hand, I shall offer to give £1,000 as the commencement of an endowment, provided employers and employed raise £2,000 for the same purpose. I have purposely spoken to you about this matter, because I want you to take an interest in the Working Men's College, and I hope and expect that you will do so. You may easily do something in the way of assisting in the work of the institution. In similar institutions in Britain I found that Oxford and Cambridge students give their services in the way of lectures. In this I should like our colleges to run, as it were, side by side: there will be a mutual advantage. University students in Great

Britain are glad to have the opportunity of speaking and lecturing to appreciative audiences such as are to be found in these institutions."

Mr. Ormond was now appointed by the Assembly Convener of the Presbyterian Ladies' College Committee. The appointment was one quite in line with his tastes, and it was in no perfunctory spirit that he performed the duties devolving on him in that connection.

There are words in that address delivered to the Assembly that touch in every true heart a chord of sympathy, and make it vibrate with something like admiration and affection for the man whose soul was avowedly aglow with a great longing to be helpful to his race. Who could doubt, might well be asked, the successful accomplishment of an undertaking begun in the spirit of simple, earnest philanthropy breathing through these words: "If I succeed in ever so humble a measure in making men wiser, better, and happier, which is my aim and fondest aspiration, I shall feel that the money God has entrusted me with has been well and wisely spent, and that the world is so much the better of my having been born into it"? Noble words truly, which should be inscribed on the walls of Ormond College in letters of gold.

## CHAPTER XV

### A PATRIOTIC PROPOSAL NOT APPRECIATED

IN the cause of education, Mr. Ormond, as we have seen, took a deep practical interest. Some whom he had personally instructed in his earlier days were found years after in his service at Toorak, bright and intelligent people, who expressed their sense of obligation to him for the advantages which they had enjoyed.

He now rendered important service to the State in the cause of primary education, and contributed in some measure to raise the educational standard of the people. Such was the confidence placed in his judgment and the trust reposed in him, that he was first named as chairman of the Royal Commission appointed by the Government, in 1881, to inquire into the working of the Education Act. The commissioners had two distinct functions assigned to them: they were directed first to inquire into and report upon the whole administration, organisation, and general condition of the existing system of public instruction, with the object of ascertaining its deficiencies, improving its working, and, while retaining its efficiency, providing the most economic mode of further extending



its operation. The second function was to inquire into the alleged grievances of a section of the community.

Mr. Ormond was eminently qualified to discharge the duties of chairman, but when it was objected that his known views in favour of religious instruction in State schools might prejudice the impartiality of his judgment, he courteously yielded the position in favour of Mr. Justice Higinbotham, and, as a simple member, attended the meetings of the Commission for the two years over which its sittings extended, and cordially joined in its report in favour of religious instruction being given in the public schools of the Colony.

It furnishes evidence of Mr. Ormond's virility and wide, strong grasp of great questions, that, simultaneously, he matured schemes and eventually carried to a successful issue large enterprises, any one of which was fitted to engross the thoughts and employ the energies of ordinary men. While erecting the noble College to which the Church has gratefully attached his name, he was revolving plans for the promotion of higher education in other directions. He felt that a Working Men's College is an imperative need of our times, marked as these times are by keen national, international, and individual competitions. His observations in Europe had profoundly convinced him that without technical knowledge, without mechanical and art training of the most approved kind, the working men of his adopted country would never hold their own in the world's race for industrial successes. He thought of this for years before he made any

public announcement of the great purpose that filled his heart. He had familiarised himself with many institutions of the kind in Europe, he had carefully inquired into the mode of conducting them, the subjects taught, the numbers enrolled, and the results that followed, in the way of shaping the life and improving the condition of those who availed themselves of the advantages offered. Such institutions are now established in the large centres of population in Great Britain: the Birkbeck Literary and Scientific Institute had over 3,600 students in attendance at fifty classes; it turned out 1,000 educated men every year. The Science and Art School at Brighton had 450 students in attendance. The Great Ormond Street Working Men's College in London had an attendance of 520 at classes, comprising men working at manual trades and about an equal proportion of clerks. It is by means of these facilities for self-improvement that the British worker has made vast strides during the past few years, and has been enabled to hold his own in spite of the increasing pressure of foreign competition. In Germany, France, and Switzerland Mr. Ormond had found institutions of a like kind, all contributing to strengthen the patriotic conviction that had rooted itself in his heart that, in order to the advancement of the working men of his own land, he must reach out to them a helping hand.

When called to preside at the distribution of prizes to the successful pupils of the Scotch College in December 1881, Mr. Ormond took advantage of the opportunity then presented to him to dwell on what he

regarded as necessary extensions of the system of public instruction in the Colony. In order to supply a link or two which he believed to be wanting in our educational chain, he desired to see art, science, and technological schools and working men's colleges established in the large towns throughout the Colony. He then made the public announcement that when Melbourne was considered ripe for a Working Men's College, and the public recognised the necessity for it, he would, if the Government granted a site, give a sum of £5,000, provided a like sum were raised by public subscription, for that object. Subsequently, he propounded his scheme in letters to the public press; but few either sympathised with the movement or entertained any hope of its success. Even the classes whom it was designed specially to benefit failed to recognise the importance of the proposal, and responded only feebly to it. It seemed, indeed, for a time, to fall entirely out of notice as a project that was not to be taken seriously.

Meanwhile, Mr. Ormond yielded to pressure brought to bear on him by his friends to contest a seat in Parliament; and, in January 1882, he was elected member of the Legislative Council for the South-Western Province, in the room of the Hon. James Henty, deceased. He did not take a very active part in the deliberations of the House, but when he did speak his words were wise and showed that he possessed a clear insight into most questions of national importance. Immigration, taxation, the fiscal policy, mining on private property, federation, and other

subjects closely affecting the public weal received his best attention.

His warmest sympathy was with the movement to provide religious instruction for the young ; and, in introducing to the Minister of Education a large and influential deputation representing the Bible-in-Schools League, he said : “ It was the desire of the deputation to draw the attention of the Minister to the recommendations embodied in the final report of the Education Commission. He had been one of the Education Commissioners, and he need not now enter fully into the matter. As a commissioner he signed the report, and that showed that he quite sympathised with the object of the deputation. To his mind the education of the young ought not to be confined to mere reading and writing. They required to be educated also morally and religiously, in order that the moral as well as the physical and intellectual qualities of the people might be improved. Education without religion was, he thought, a great mistake in this country. We must have religious instruction, in order that the community may be fitted for their duties and prepared for another world. We should educate the young for time as well as for eternity.”

Every useful institution found in Mr. Ormond a generous supporter. In October 1881, he wrote to the Secretary of the Young Men's Christian Association offering a donation of £500 to the funds if £3,000 were subscribed within a specified period, for the liquidation of the balance of their debt. On March 3 he forwarded to the Association his cheque for £500.

He was now much engaged in Church work, identified himself more closely with her aims, and sought to do good as he had opportunity. A deputation from the Committee on Heathen Missions, introduced by Mr. Ormond, waited on Sir Arthur Gordon for the purpose of presenting an address relating to the Labour Trade in the New Hebrides, and the means which should be employed for the correction of its evils. He presided at a meeting held in the Temperance Hall, in connection with the labours of the Conference appointed to consider the subject of the federal union of the Presbyterian Churches of Australia.

That union, Mr. Ormond believed, would be crowned with the best results, but it was not till July 1901 that it was consummated at Sydney, with fitting enthusiasm and prolonged rejoicings in the presence of a vast audience which crowded the spacious Town Hall in every part.

With all his manifold activities and the pressure of public work upon him, Mr. Ormond never relaxed his attention to his private affairs. In June 1882, he bought the Kirndeene Station, at Culcairn, on the Murray—an estate comprising some 20,000 acres, and carrying 20,000 sheep.

## CHAPTER XVI

### AWAKENING OF PUBLIC INTEREST IN THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE SCHEME

No serious attention seemed to be given to Mr. Ormond's generous proposal to establish a Working Men's College until May 1882, when the trustees of the Public Library suggested that a building for technological education might be erected on the Public Library reserve and in connection with the Library and Museum. Another proposal was made at the same time by the Trades' Hall Council to the effect that the College might be erected on the Trades' Hall area, and form part of that institution. But Mr. Ormond, unwilling that it should have an entangling association with any other organisation, desiring that it should be governed by its own rules and regulations and that working men should have a share in its management, did not entertain either of the proposals made to him. In conference with both of these bodies, he explained his views in regard to the constitution and objects of the proposed College, and from both of them he received expressions of sympathy and promises of help.

Representatives appointed by the various bodies

interested in the scheme—Government, University, Library, and Trades' Hall—met by the invitation of Mr. Ormond in May 1882, to discuss questions of site and of finance ; and in addressing them he said : “ The first question for consideration was one of site, and he thought all would agree that the proposed College should be erected in as central a position as possible and that it should be convenient to the Public Library and Art Gallery, so that students and members of the College might easily avail themselves of the privileges and advantages which those institutions would afford in the matter of examining books, models, designs, mineralogical and geological specimens. Before this meeting took place he had been very anxious to know what unoccupied land was available, and therefore he waited on Mr. Madden, the Minister of Lands, . . . who marked off a site which on application could be granted for a Working Men's College. Mr. Ormond was encouraged to think from conversations which he had had with gentlemen representing the different classes of the community that this site would be considered as central, convenient, and advantageous as any that could possibly be chosen, even if they had an opportunity of choosing, which they had not. The College would be established to provide science teaching of a popular kind. The classes would be in the evening, and in that way the instruction would be supplementary to that afforded by other educational establishments. All who had to carry out a trade or profession would be afforded an opportunity of becoming thoroughly acquainted, theoretically and practically,

with the various matters connected with their trades and professions. The College would be non-political and non-sectarian, and, if it could be managed, he would be inclined to say that it should be conducted without restriction as to sex. The course of lessons in practical cookery given at a kindred institution in Sydney was very successful, and was attended by a large number of lady students. Again, class lectures on domestic economy and other subjects were delivered, and practical lessons on the cutting-out and making of clothes were given by lady teachers for the benefit of those needing such instruction. In Sydney, the Mechanics' School of Arts was entitled to a subsidy of £1 for every £2 subscribed, which would give from this source (the Government) from £700 to £800 a year, and he believed that the Government subsidy towards the building amounted to £1 for every £1 collected."

Other speakers having addressed the meeting, the constitution of the governing body was agreed upon. That gave the working classes a very large controlling influence in the Council. A section of the Melbourne press deprecated this, but the attempts they made to overrule it were frustrated, Mr. Ormond contending that they should naturally be permitted to control an institution whose whole design is to benefit themselves.

The proposal received great prominence at an enthusiastic public meeting held the following month in the Town Hall. A large number of influential public men were on the platform, and the Mayor, Mr. C. J. Ham, occupied the chair. Mr. Justice Higin-



botham, the Bishop of Melbourne, Rev. Prior Butler, Mr. B. Douglas, and others all spoke warmly in support of the movement : and in replying to a unanimous vote of thanks for his generous gift of £5,000, Mr. Ormond, who was received with loud cheers, said : “ In the presence of so many representative men, and following, as I do, speakers so distinguished for their ability and oratorical attainments, you may easily imagine my feeling nervous, yes, and more than usually so, fearful lest my feeble and faltering words may mar the effect of the eloquent speeches you have had the pleasure of listening to : yet being assured that we are engaged in a work which, when developed, will be of great importance and value to my fellow-colonists and country, I have much pleasure in being here to take my humble part in the proceedings of the evening ; and for the vote of thanks which has been proposed in such extremely kind and complimentary terms and received by you in so warm and friendly a way, I offer you my heartfelt thanks.

“ The proposed College scheme is not a newly conceived idea—a crude notion of mine. Two years ago I frequently visited the Science and Art School at Brighton, England, and after inquiring into the work done, examining the class-rooms, laboratory, lecture-theatre, seeing the students at work, conversing with the teachers and lecturers, it occurred to me that such an institution, with the addition of a technological section, was just what we required in Melbourne. The Art section was well patronised. It has been said, and truly said, that to the working

man drawing came after the three R's, that the pencil was the best elementary tool for the craftsman, and that science enabled the carrying out of art and structural designs on scientific principles.

“During the winter of '80 and '81, I attended lectures at the great central institution at South Kensington, and from the directors of the science and art divisions—Colonel Donnelly and Mr. Bowler—gathered much valuable information regarding art and science work in London and the provinces. Then I visited several institutions, more especially for the working classes, and fixing upon one as a model, attended the lectures and conversed with students, teachers, and managers. For twenty-six years the college I refer to has been the centre of an active intellectual and social life, and the only wish of its present manager is to make it more and more useful to the working classes; and here, let me tell you what a young man attending a working man's college may become. At the opening of the winter session of the evening classes for young men at the City of London College, a gentleman, a member of the British House of Commons, gave an interesting sketch, which was recognised to be autobiographical, of the career of one of the young students. In 1855, when fourteen years old, the lad joined the evening classes. He had just left school, and had been but a few months in his father's shop. He had little time for study, but at the close of the day he read diligently in the library of the College. In 1856, he earned the approval of the examiners in English literature, and at the

examination in the same year he obtained the prize for that subject. Next year, at the Society of Arts examination, he got a prize for English History, and the following year, at the Oxford examination, he became the first Associate of Arts that the University made. Subsequently, he was successful in the competitive examination for Government appointments, and took a clerkship in the India Office. The young man was resolved to go to the Bar, and in 1861 succeeded in getting the Tancred studentship. Next, directing his attention to literature and politics, he wrote leaders for the *Standard* and *Morning Herald*, working at law by day and literature by night. In 1864 he was called to the Bar, and, later on, elected a member of Parliament. The narrator gave the narrative because he knew the worth of an examination, and believed that what one had done others might do.

“In regard to our subject, I have received several encouraging letters from persons who tell me that but for such institutions they would not have been able to occupy the positions they now hold; and, with your permission, I will read one of the letters :

“ ‘ DEAR SIR,

“I write to thank you for your handsome gift towards a working man’s college, and to say that you have done more to break down the ill-feeling of working men towards those of means than a thousand speeches. I may say that I don’t remember ever going to school, being brought up in a small village of Cambridgeshire. It was only after going to

Cambridge to work that I went at night to a working man's college, established by the present Bishop of Carlisle, Dr. Goodwin: I am thankful they were ever established.

“ ‘Wishing you every blessing, and trusting that the institute will prove a great success,

“ ‘Believe me, etc.’

“Ladies and gentlemen, I earnestly desire to enlist your interest and sympathy in an institution which will afford the working classes an opportunity of spending their evenings comfortably and profitably, and where they will acquire a fuller and better knowledge, theoretically and practically, of the different trades and manufactures they may be engaged in. I, firstly, suggested that the College might be designated the Melbourne Scientific and Technological Institute. Again, as the College is intended more especially for those who are not ashamed to call themselves working men, I thought the Working Man's College would be appropriate. The name, however, is not a condition with me, and I shall not impose conditions other than those originally stated. An article on the subject, which appeared in one of the newspapers, remarked that in this thoroughly democratic country, where manual labourers very properly assert an equality in everything, and where all have a fair field and no favour, it seems a pity to create distinctions, even in name, and that a true educational system should know nothing of the difference of classes, that the endowment

should be given for the benefit of the whole community, and that the privileges of the Colony should be given to all on equal terms. All this I most heartily concur in. I wish as few restrictions as possible. When I said non-political, I simply meant that the College would not be exclusively either a Conservative or Liberal institution: not that such subjects as political economy, history, and law should be excluded. Again, non-sectarian, in the sense that it will not be an institution exclusively for any one sect, but for all sects and sections of the people. I wish it to be an educational home for all. These matters, however, I will leave with the Council in the fullest assurance that all will be well and wisely directed, and in the interest of the community at large. With regard to the statement that the work we propose might be done thoroughly and more economically by utilising existing institutions, I need not now go into that matter. The question was very fully and earnestly considered by the Committee, and it was determined that a separate building was not only desirable but absolutely necessary; and if the College is to be as successful as similar institutions elsewhere, it is likely that within two years from the opening there will be some 200 or 300 students attending the classes; and my opinion is, decidedly, that the work could not be carried out but in an institution centrally situated and specially adapted for the purpose. There will be a certain gap between institutions, but I hope to see a causeway laid by which the giants of our proposed College may stride

to the higher colleges, and so to the University, and I shall have much pleasure in giving a studentship, on certain conditions, open to all students in the College, and thus place the first stepping-stone in the causeway. I simply donate £5,000 to assist in establishing a Working Men's College on condition that £5,000 be raised from other sources ; and in giving out of the fulness with which God has blessed me, my anxious desire is to help those who show a willingness to help themselves ; to do good in my generation, so that when my race is run, my pilgrimage o'er, I may have the consolation and happiness of feeling that the world is none the worse for my having been born into it."

The meeting was all that the most ardent supporters of the movement could have desired. It was crowded with Melbourne artisans, and addressed by men who were leaders in every good cause. There was, further, complete agreement as to the scope and purpose of the College ; and a resolution was carried unanimously that measures be at once taken to raise the sum of £5,000, in compliance with the conditions of Mr. Ormond's offer. The working class responded with alacrity to this noble and unselfish appeal made to them. In less than three months the stipulated amount was subscribed—10,700 wage-earners contributing the sum of £3,300.

## CHAPTER XVII

### BENEFACTIONS TO GEELONG AND BALLARAT DISTRICTS ; OPEN-HANDEDNESS AND UNREASONABLE APPEALS FOR HELP

It was not only the metropolis that received generous gifts from Mr. Ormond : other towns shared in his bounty, which was indeed cosmopolitan in its sympathies and illimitable in the scope of its operations. In August 1882, after inspecting the Free Library at Geelong, he offered to give a hundred guineas to the institution, towards securing additional books for the library, and geological, mineralogical, and botanical specimens for the museum, provided a like amount were contributed by the public for the same object. Addressing a deputation who had been appointed to meet him and discuss this matter with him, he said : “ A large number of young men were in the habit of grouping at the corners of the streets in Geelong, and, in the exuberance of their strength, indulging in much larking and noise. It occurred to him that some effort ought to be made to induce these young men to employ their spare time in a more profitable and satisfactory way. Remembering how much the news and reading rooms in Great Britain

were resorted to by the artisan class, he was anxious to ascertain to what extent the young men of Geelong availed themselves of the privileges of the Free Library and news-room. He visited the institution and was disappointed to find that time after time, when the streets were crowded by people, few found their way to the institute. He thought a great number of works on elementary science, history, biography and travels might with advantage be placed on the shelves: also that a museum in connection with the institute, for which there is a suitable room, would be an instructive, valuable feature, and additional attraction to many. A collection of natural history, geological, mineralogical, and botanical specimens might be exhibited, also vegetable and animal products from the raw to the manufactured article. He spoke to Professor McCoy some time ago, and was encouraged by him to think there could be no difficulty in obtaining such a collection. Again, in conversation with an influential and active trustee of the National Museum, he gathered that the trustees would assist Geelong in forming a museum by furnishing such duplicate specimens as could be spared from theirs."

He gave also a generous donation to the Belmont Free Library, which exposed him to the unworthy taunt that his liberality to local institutions was due to his desire to secure popularity and influence votes. That was an ungenerous reflection, for he had contributed largely to public institutions in the Geelong district before he had any thought of becoming a candidate for a seat in Parliament.



To Mr. J. Noble Wilson, Mayor of Ballarat, he sent £50 in augmentation of the funds of the School of Mines. But it was not only educational institutions that awakened his interest. No cry of a suffering or wounded heart appealed to him in vain. To Creswick he sent £100, when the mining catastrophe there—the flooding of the works—caused widespread distress and sorrow. He was chosen a director of the Royal Humane Society of Australasia, which sends abroad to all parts of the Commonwealth the most approved apparatus for saving life. The objects of the Society strongly appealed to his sympathies, and he sought in many ways to promote its usefulness.

His giving was generous but not indiscriminate. His own shrewd judgment controlled and guided him in all his beneficence. Letters almost innumerable came to him asking help for all sorts of things, and his vital powers were sometimes exhausted replying to these—his replies usually taking a practically sympathetic form. It is true that in the pocket of a suicide there was found a letter from Mr. Ormond declining to give him some monetary assistance which he had asked for, and many reading the report of that in the press may have assumed that the application was one simply for temporary assistance to relieve immediate necessities. That, however, was not the case. The letter was in reply to a communication asking Mr. Ormond for £240, to enable the writer to publish a book that he had written! Numerous applications of the kind reached the great philanthropist, and he found it absolutely necessary to set

his face resolutely against all such appeals, compliance with which would have conduced in time to his own impoverishment.

The election of the first Council of the Working Men's College took place in the Town Hall in November, Mr. Ormond quite naturally being elected president. He was now a good deal occupied in unfolding and explaining his scheme in letters to the press, removing misconceptions, and endeavouring to win over to his side those who were hostile or indifferent. Some objected to the name of the proposed college: some hoped Mr. Ormond would devote his donations to the improvement of existing educational machinery. The Trades' Hall clamoured for larger representation on the council: others urged that the Trades' Hall control of the projected College should be greatly restricted and circumscribed.

Mr. Ormond never employed a secretary. He lived a strenuous life: few knew how hard he worked, and how much he required the holidays he took—holidays they could hardly be called, for even then he was always gathering information, which was turned to practical account in the improvement and perfecting of the schemes which occupied his thoughts. Here is an extract from his diary, under date November 27, 1882: "Left Melbourne at 6.30 a.m. Breakfast at Mack's Hotel, Geelong. Started in buggy at 10.30. Addressed electors at Highton at 11. At Ceres 12.30. At Mount Moriac 2.30. Waurn Ponds 5.30. Belmont 7 o'clock. Germanton 8.30. Spoke on an average at each place one hour and a quarter. Left

Germanton at 10.30. Had five miles' drive. Hotel 11.20. Bed 1 a.m."

Again, on December 31, he wrote: "This year will now draw to a close in a few hours: and what a busy one it has been to me! Two elections, a correspondence equal at least to 5,000 letters. Meetings daily, oftentimes three in a day. Last year I had Ormond College work. This year I have had a good deal to do with a W.M. College, which I am establishing, and several other works, all taking time and thought, and then the establishment of a new property in N.S.W. has occupied much time."

## CHAPTER XVIII

### CONFLICT ON THE SUNDAY QUESTION

MELBOURNE was deeply stirred on the Sunday question and divided into two great hostile camps. Mr. Ormond, just because he was a true friend of the working man, was a very ardent supporter of all movements to preserve the distinctive character of the Sabbath, and was opposed to any innovation which had a tendency to destroy the sanctity of the day which had been set apart for rest. It was well said of him that "in all his beneficences his consideration for the welfare of the operative classes was his prominent and actuating motive."

The trustees of the Public Library had decided to open the Picture Gallery and Museum on Sundays. The question had been repeatedly before Parliament, which had pronounced emphatically against the opening of these institutions on that day. In view of that, it was thought unfair that the trustees should, while Parliament was in recess, take the opportunity to flout that expression of opinion and do outrage to the convictions of an influential section of the community. A numerous deputation therefore waited on the Premier and strongly urged that the decision of the

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trustees should not be given effect to until Parliament met and had an opportunity of expressing its will on the subject: the Premier, in communicating this to the trustees, expressed the concurrence of the Government with that opinion. At a hastily summoned meeting on May 3 the trustees, by a majority of one, decided to adhere to their original resolution to open the doors of the art institutions to the public on Sunday from 1.30 p.m. to 5 o'clock.

On the evening of that day a meeting was held in the Town Hall, under the auspices of the Sunday Liberation Society, at which opinions were expressed entirely favourable to the action of the trustees. On the Sabbath following the Museum and Gallery were opened, and some 5,700 persons crowded into them, the rush being due largely, perhaps, to the tactics of the other side, for the hoardings presented appeals to the public to throng the buildings, and advertisements appeared in the papers exhorting all "friends of progress" to visit the institutions and make impressive display of the weight of opinion on the side of the advocates of a secular Sunday.

On Monday evening, May 7, 1883, the Sabbath Observance Society held a great and memorable meeting in the same hall, under the presidency of Mr. Ormond, who was loudly cheered on taking the chair. The spacious hall was crowded, a large number of the other party being present, as was clearly enough apparent, for the purpose of disturbing the proceedings.

" . . . . What we are engaged in," Mr. Ormond said, "is no idle matter. Tens of thousands are

deeply interested in the issue. I trust that we will deal with the subject in a calm, serious, and earnest manner. My one idea will be to conduct this meeting fairly, doing justice to all parties, and in view of this I crave your kind assistance. When I was first asked to preside, I hesitated to accede to the request of the committee, for the reason that I thought some one more important and better qualified should have been invited to do so. The committee thinking otherwise urged me to accept the position, and notwithstanding my deficiencies, I resolved to show that I was ready

to own my Lord,  
And to defend His cause.  
Maintain the glory of His cross,  
And honour all His laws.

“The opening of the Museum and Art Gallery on Sundays is, in my opinion, an encroachment on the Sabbath day’s rest, and I desire now to enter my protest against the action of the trustees in the matter. They had the power to open the institutions, but what I complain of is that, exercising that right which had been so long in abeyance without warning, and without any pressure being brought to bear upon them by the people, having rested on their rights for so long a period of years, surely they might have continued to do so till Parliament was in session, and so given the people an opportunity of being heard on the subject through their representatives. Were the people clamorous for the opening? Was there any indication that they wished this institution open on Sunday? Three years ago, when there was an agitation at home

for opening the British Museum on Sundays, one of the trustees, favourable to the opening, said he could take no official part in opening the Museum on Sundays. He considered that the trustees had no right to take part in such a proceeding, and could express no opinion one way or the other. I would the trustees of our Museum had held their hands a few weeks longer. Surely they could have done so without prejudice to themselves or the public. The defenders of the action of the trustees say the opening is in the interest of the industrial class—that it is a working man's question. Let us look at it from that point of view. Having the advancement and improvement of the working class at heart, I have for years cultivated an acquaintance with the wage-earning class in the Colony, Britain, and elsewhere, attended their institutions, sat and conversed with them, and I can say that at no time and on no occasion did they give me the slightest reason to believe that they wished museums and galleries opened on Sundays, or any encroachment on the Sabbath day's rest. The clamour in the old country did not come from the working men, but from others who thought to make tools of them by professing to be their friends.

“Let me give you a few facts. There was a movement some time ago for opening the Bethnal Green Museum on Sunday. This institution is in a working man's district, therefore, and on that account, the agitators thought to easily get in the wedge that would open all museums and galleries. They calculated without their hosts; 84,000 working men signed a

petition protesting against the proposal, and their professed friends were defeated. Again, action was taken in regard to opening the British Museum and National Gallery, and a petition was sent to Parliament signed by 2,000 eminent artists and men of science ; 58,000 artisans again came to the front with a petition against the proposal. In his place in the House of Lords, the Archbishop of Canterbury said he had a list of some eight or ten different places in which the question had been fairly argued by those who knew the circumstances of the various museums and galleries, and in only three places besides Maidstone had it been resolved that they should be opened. In Maidstone the museum was opened on Sundays for several years, but it was found by the people of the town that it was being employed largely as a rendezvous by the young men and women of the place. The result was that the Town Council held a meeting, and by a majority it was determined that the museum should be closed. To show what the publicans themselves think on the subject, Lord Cairns said that the petitions in favour of the proposal were numerous signed by them in the belief that, if the opening of galleries was carried into effect, it would increase their Sunday trade. He also told the House of Lords that the Duke of Westminster, with the greatest liberality, threw open his magnificent gallery of pictures and art treasures for the enjoyment of the people on Sundays, and, as the result of his experience, he (the Duke) was bound to admit that it was not a working-class question at all. The working



classes did not largely visit his galleries, but those who did were people of a higher class. In the House of Lords, three years ago, the Earl of Dunraven moved that all museums and galleries be opened to the public on Sundays. Lord Shaftesbury moved as an amendment that certain words be left out in order to add that such institutions as the British Museum and National Gallery should be opened on week-day evenings at least three days a week to the public, between the hours of 7 and 10 o'clock. The result was that the Museum was opened on week-day evenings and not on Sundays. So far as I can gather, the working classes decided the question. When they were appealed to they said the Museum should not be open, and that there should be no interference with the Sabbath rest. With regard to opening the reading-room of our library on Sundays, I am also of opinion that it would not be found to answer. Would it be a place for quiet reading and study? No. People would be constantly walking about the room, and the attendant noise and confusion would render reading and thought almost impossible. On week days the constant walking in, about, and out of the rooms by mere idlers has become a great trouble to many. The turn-table indicates the number of persons entering the library, not the number who use it for the purpose of reading. I wish the trustees could see their way to the establishment of a lending library in connection with the institution. Such would, I am sure, be a boon to all classes. I shall hope to see a lending library formed in connection with the Working

Men's College. Yet, in addition to this, men might have a few books of their own, good, well-chosen works, if only a score or so, which they could take down at any time, read, and read again and make themselves masters of. The man doing this would be able to hold his own on most subjects.

"Working men ! all I ask is that you ponder well this question of opening museums and galleries on Sundays. Quietly, earnestly, think the matter out. You are very capable of doing so, and the subject is worth your closest consideration. There are those who will profess to be in your interest when they are working against you. They may have their own selfish ends to serve, but do discriminate between professing and true friends. On this platform last Thursday night, supporters of our good and valuable institutions were conspicuous by their absence. Were there three contributors to your College on the platform ? I don't want to say one word about myself as to what I am doing and intend doing beyond this, that I live in the interest of the community, I am willing to spend and be spent for the good of all. I have learned the luxury of giving, and I know that a man attains to true happiness when he realises that, in some measure, he lives for his race, and that what God has given him, He has given him for mankind. It is said that the opening of our galleries can do no harm. What I contend is that the opening is altogether unnecessary, and that one barrier being got rid of, another and another will be broken down and we may drift into the continental Sunday."

The meeting was addressed also by several prominent men who occupied seats on the platform, but they encountered persistent opposition from a large disturbing element present. Mr. Ormond himself, though he was admittedly the most disinterested and generous friend the working man possessed, was yet subjected to constant interruptions and to a running fire of rude invective from that unfriendly element. But he fought his way through it all with most admirable courage and good temper which extorted admiration; and, according to the testimony of a distinguished public man who was present, he "contributed in a marked degree to the maintenance of the system which at present exists in regard to these institutions."

When, later on, the question came up in Parliament, the Legislative Assembly by a large majority condemned the action of the trustees, who were thus compelled to resile from the attitude which they had assumed in deference to the wishes of a secularist minority of the community.

## CHAPTER XIX

### “ A FAIRLY AMAZED MEETING ”

THE great scheme to which Mr. Ormond had committed himself, into which he had flung himself with so much daring and tenacity of purpose, bringing to it his own splendid enthusiasm, and unfaltering persuasion of its vast possibilities for the future of our industrial classes, made slow descent from the region of theory into the realm of actual fact. But some progress was made. The Government, when appealed to, had granted a very suitable and central site within easy reach of the Public Library. A Council of Management had been constituted, of which the Hon. Francis Ormond was chosen president; and tenders had been invited for the erection of a building, estimated to cost £20,000. But at this stage a great public meeting was held in the Town Hall at which Mr. Ormond presided—“a fairly amazed meeting,” the press called it—amazed at the spontaneity and largeness of the wonderful liberality which always seemed to flow in a full tide of public beneficence.

Mr. Ormond, who was received with prolonged applause, said: “Having during the past thirty years, in this country and in Britain, taken an interest in

and devoted much of my time to the furtherance of education, I felt, on committing myself four years ago to the erection and completion of an institution for the higher education of the youth of the colony, that I ought to rest awhile before taking on fresh obligations in the educational way. I did rest, but it was not for long. For within a year I found myself interested and engaged in educational work in France. Again, in September 1880, happening to visit an institution in one of the provincial towns in England established more particularly for artisans and working men, and seeing the useful and valuable work done, it occurred to me that the establishment of similar institutions in our Colony would be a great boon to those desirous of improving themselves and gaining a scientific knowledge of the principles of their different trades. . . . Following up my inquiries in London during the winters of 1880-81, I paid frequent visits to such institutions as the South Kensington Science and Art School, the Birkbeck Institute, Great Ormond Street Working Men's College, attended lectures, conversed with directors, secretaries, teachers, and students ; and the more I did so, the more convinced I became of the desirability and importance of placing a scientific and technical education within the reach of working men. Continuing my investigation, I found that the wisest, noblest, and greatest in Britain lent their influence and support to these institutions ; that the Prince of Wales, the Dukes of Edinburgh, Connaught, and Albany took an especial interest in all institutions designed to increase the usefulness and happiness of

the working classes, and by a ready willingness to preside at inaugurations and at prize distributions, the Royal Princes did much to encourage teachers and stimulate students. Shortly before leaving England, I had the honour of a seat on the platform at the Guildhall, whence Prince Leopold, surrounded by philanthropists, statesmen, scientists, and others, distributed prizes to the science and arts students of the metropolitan districts. The Prince, in closing an admirable address on the occasion, said that, in trying to encourage the young artisans to attend the classes, he was counselling them to do that which would not only lift their minds, and cause them to employ their leisure hours in a profitable manner, but that also which would further their own domestic welfare and happiness, and increase the prosperity of the country. As uttered by the Prince these words had a true and noble ring about them. Again, on another occasion, addressing working men, his Royal Highness, quoting the poet Tennyson, said :

Men, my brothers, men the workers, ever seeking something new,  
That which they have done but earnest of the deeds that they  
shall do.

The Prince's sympathies are with workers. They are brotherly sympathies, and by his willingness to assist and support all schemes having for their object the improvement, welfare, and social elevation of the community he has endeared himself to every one in Britain."

Mr. Ormond, having sketched the history of the movement to erect a Working Men's College in Mel-

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bourne, said: " Designs were invited for a structure to cost £20,000, and when tenders were sent in the lowest was for £22,590. The plans, however, were arranged to admit of the College being erected in sections, and when it was found that a sufficient and suitable portion of the accepted design would cost over £13,000, it was deemed advisable before proceeding with the building to call a public meeting, state the position, and invite additional contributions.

" That you appreciate the desirability and importance of establishing an institution which will afford an opportunity to all for self-improvement and for acquiring a better and more scientific knowledge of the handicrafts in which they may be engaged, and that you are willing and able to assist in the work, I have ample and abundant proof in the splendid way my challenge was met last year; and this brings me to the point at which I desire to take you into my confidence; to break a silence which has burdened me for some time, and as I have never breathed my intention to any one, I dare say I shall give you a surprise. On certain conditions I am prepared to deal with the Working Men's College precisely as I have dealt, and am dealing, with the College founded by me in connection with the University. The conditions I impose being few and simple, I shall not relax them one jot, and I have every confidence that you will not ask me to do so. The £5,000 already contributed by me being considered mine, I will erect the College building in accordance with the accepted design, provided: (1) That £7,500 be raised by public con-

tribution and added to the £5,000 subscribed by the public last year. This sum of £12,500 to be placed to the credit of a fund for furnishings, fittings, repairs, and scholarships. The remuneration to teachers and lecturers to be provided for by entrance fees and annual grant from Parliament. (2) That the Council now representative of the Government, the University, Public Library, Trades' Hall, and subscribers be enlarged by eight additional members, four to be nominated by myself, and four elected by the new subscribers. It is well that there should be a large Council, in order that the work of the institution may be divided and carried on by sub-committees. In Britain large donators to similar institutions are made life members, with the privilege of nominating students. I should like the same privilege to obtain in regard to our College. The sum might be fixed at £200 or £300. (3) That the designation of the Working Men's College be altered by my being allowed to add another word after 'the.' I am of opinion that the College should have a very distinctive title, for the reason that like colleges may be established in and around Melbourne. In such case it would be well that the parent institution had a pronounced and distinguishing title. My proposals being accepted and conditions complied with, I will name Messrs. MacBain, R. Murray Smith, and Ham as three of the gentlemen I will nominate to the Council of the Leopold Working Men's College. It may be thought I aim at too much. My aim is to make artisans better artisans, citizens better citizens, servants better servants, masters better masters, and



fathers, sons, brothers, and husbands better fathers, sons, brothers, and husbands. I believe the College will have a glorious end, and that every man associating himself with the institution will be improved thereby.”

Mr. Ormond's munificent offer was enthusiastically received and unhesitatingly accepted by the meeting. The conditions named being pronounced especially suitable and easy, resolutions to that effect were cordially adopted by representative men of all classes, the press highly commending the wisdom and advantages of the conditions.

## CHAPTER XX

### A CHASTENING EXPERIENCE

MR. ORMOND left town with the enthusiastic plaudits of the great meeting still ringing in his ears, and no wonder that, on returning after a brief absence, he was, as he himself put it, "astounded to find that his offer was being canvassed in an unfriendly spirit." Where he expected to receive the greatest encouragement and support, he encountered only factious opposition and something like an organised attempt to defeat his purpose. He was subjected to a good deal of ungenerous cavilling and even obloquy in connection with the scheme. The close association of the projected College with one of the established educational institutions was urgently demanded by some, but Mr. Ormond, as we have seen, was opposed to that. Others objected to a movement that tended, to use their own expression, to stimulate thought and humanise labour, as though it were impossible to elevate a man without impairing his usefulness as a mechanical drudge. One journal, while professing to feel the keenest interest in the scheme, missed no opportunity of girding at the generous donor, made unscrupulous attacks upon him, and imputed to him selfish and sordid motives

as the spring of all his beneficent doings ; but its attitude was entirely and scathingly condemned with singular unanimity by the country press.

“ Supported, however,” Mr. Ormond said, “ by an inward consciousness of a desire to do what was right, I did not allow myself to be discouraged and turned aside from an endeavour to push forward an institution which, I am persuaded, will be of incalculable advantage to the wage-earners of the Colony.” That was the noble and intrepid spirit in which he forced, as it were, his benefits upon a captious and apparently reluctant public.

But the democratic sentiment of the country resented the association in any form of royalty with the institution, and desired to have the name “ Leopold ” withdrawn. With the delicate sensitiveness that marked him, Mr. Ormond abstained from attending the meeting of the Council which immediately followed the public announcement of his great gift to the College, as he knew the conditions would be more fully and freely discussed in his absence. The Trades’ Hall Committee therefore appointed its representative members on the Council, Messrs. Douglas and Fuller, to wait upon him with the request that he would reconsider the matter of change of designation of the College, and relax the condition dealing with the amount to be subscribed by the public ; but he declined either to forgo the name he had chosen or to modify the condition on which his offer was based. He informed the delegates that he had not selected the name “ Leopold ” because of its nearness to the throne,

but because it was the name of one who was held in high esteem by the poorer classes in Britain, who were loud in their praises of the philanthropic-minded Prince. He told them, further, that he had been approached by young men, engaged in banking and mercantile institutions, who expressed themselves as being desirous of participating in the benefits of the College, but who believed they would be precluded from doing so because they were not considered working men. He, therefore, urged this as a supplementary plea why the name "Leopold" should be adopted.

After three weeks of agitation and discussion, during which rumours of rupture and withdrawal of the offer disquieted many minds, the dispute between Mr. Ormond and the Council came to a close. On the one side the change in the designation of the College was agreed to, and, on the other, the request was conceded, that £5,000 be raised before the building was commenced, within twelve months, and the remaining £2,500 as soon as might be thereafter.

When, soon after, the death of Prince Leopold was announced, a special meeting of the Council was called for the purpose of expressing sympathy with Her Majesty the Queen and the Duchess of Albany. "I have called this special meeting," the President said, "so that arrangements may be made for our offering our condolence to Her Majesty and the Duchess in their time of trouble. Perhaps few in this Colony have had a better opportunity than I have had of knowing how great an interest the late Prince Leopold took in the welfare, the educational improvement, and

social advancement of the working classes. It was my privilege, during a recent visit to the old country, to hear him address artisans and wage-earners, and, just before leaving Britain in 1880, I had the honour of being present at the Guildhall when he, surrounded by a distinguished company, distributed prizes to the students of the metropolitan art and science schools. He, on that occasion, as on all others, spoke such words of wisdom, and so kindly, so encouragingly, to students and teachers, that I felt his sympathies were entirely with the working classes ; that he had set himself a noble task, and that in aiming so earnestly at the elevation and improvement of his race, he was striving to carry on the work so gloriously commenced by his illustrious father. Knowing what I do of the Prince and his work, I have a profound respect for his memory, and deeply regret that so useful and valuable a career should thus early be brought to a close. His cheerful smile and kindly words will be long missed by the people of Britain." The Council forwarded a telegram expressing sympathy with the Queen and Duchess in their sad bereavement.

The appeal to the public for funds was practically fruitless. The College Committee of the Trades' Hall Council, to whom was assigned the duty of collecting the sum required to qualify for the donation offered, reported that "the attempts to comply with Mr. Ormond's offer had been a complete failure, and reflected little credit on the working men of the Colony." But Mr. Ormond, in spite of the upbraidings and contumely to which he was subjected by the organ

which professed to express the views of the working men, showed by his willingness to vary the conditions of his donation to the Working Men's College the earnestness of his desire to attain the end for which his offer was made. On the failure of the public to respond to his proposal to defray the entire cost of the building, estimated at £22,500, if a sum of £7,500 were raised by subscription, he agreed to revert to the original proposal. The Council therefore fell back on that, and took immediate steps to initiate the erection of the building, a contract for a section of which was accepted for £10,600.

There is no doubt that Mr. Ormond, in his appreciation of the advantages of a technical college, was far ahead of his time. He had grasped the full value and potentialities of such a training as it offers, and the greatness of the boon which it would prove to our industrial classes. Their irresponsiveness to his pleading appeals and immovable apathy in face of his munificent benefactions, were due to a want of clear perception of the objects which he had in view. They needed to be educated to a knowledge of the benefit which such an institution would confer upon them; and Mr. Ormond patiently waited for the growth of the idea within them. Because he regarded their contributions as the indication and measure of their interest in his scheme, he refrained from anything like precipitate action, believing that with a clear recognition of the advantages offered, they would cheerfully accord a substantial support.

## CHAPTER XXI

### ORMOND COLLEGE PROFESSORS APPOINTED

Now that a theological hall was available and a suitable endowment assured, steps were taken to appoint professors who, undistracted by pastoral duties, would be able to give themselves with whole-hearted devotion to the work of training men for the Gospel ministry. The system of instruction pursued up to that point in the theological hall had been confessedly detrimental to the best interests of the Church. That was not owing to inefficiency on the part of the teachers, or to want of ability in the students, but to the intermittent and fragmentary instruction given.

During some years previously the position of principal and professor, carrying with it a salary of £800 or £1,000 a year, had been offered respectively to at least seven ministers of the Home Church, and had been refused by each. Dr. Dykes had been empowered to select a principal and professor of theology, and had approached ministers of high standing with a view to their acceptance of a colonial field of labour, but the Home Churches would not part with any man of eminence and of outstanding evangelical convictions, and the Church of Victoria, it was felt, could not

afford either to experiment with their clever and doubtful men, or to accept those who were of mediocre or inferior stamp. There was no special call of duty, and nothing but a missionary spirit, which no longer existed in connection with Australia, would induce men to break up old associations, and come out here to face new conditions and totally different circumstances of life under these strange Australian skies. Then the pressure of modern life was being felt so much in Great Britain, with its daring excursions into realms once counted too sacred and too remote for human research, and ever evolving new problems which the wisest and sanest intellects found hard to solve—all that made the Home Churches reluctant to send their strongest men across the seas. Therefore our choice was confined to those who were in some measure fitted and available within our own borders. To the presbyteries, therefore, the General Assembly remitted the duty of nominating men whom they believed to be competent to fill the post.

With a true appreciation of the wants of the Church and Colony, Mr. Ormond recommended that one of the two professors appointed, in addition to other qualifications, should be selected on account of his proficiency in mental and moral philosophy, and should give lectures on these subjects, open to all students.

The eyes of the presbyteries turned to the ministers of Toorak and St. Kilda East, the Revs. Murdoch Macdonald and J. L. Rentoul, M.A., who stood in the front rank of our working clergy, distinguished alike for intellectual power and evangelical soundness, as



well as for their valiant defence of truth when fierce assaults were made upon it. These two men were called to fill the vacant chairs, the former that of Systematic Theology and Church History, the latter that of Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis.

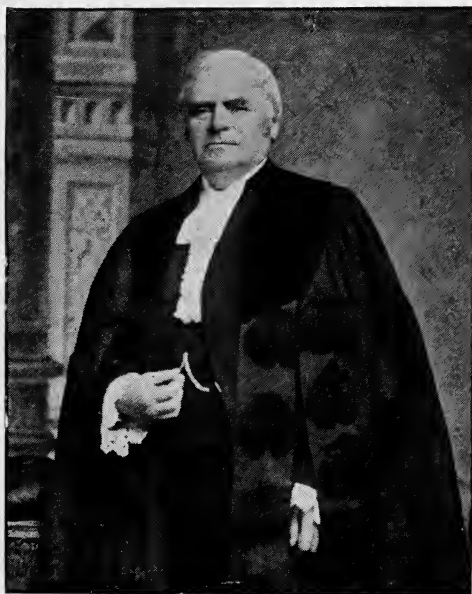
These appointments caused some carping in a section of the public press, which sympathised with the broad theology enounced by a leading minister of our Church, and disastrous results, it was predicted, would follow from them. First of all there would arise, it was said, a possibly healthy, but certainly pugilistic, rivalry between the four recognised champion sects of Victorian christendom; the second result will too probably be that at no distant date the University will come into collision with the colleges. These were the dismal forebodings of a section of the press. But no such calamitous results have followed the appointments made to the chairs of Theology. The best and friendliest feeling exists between the affiliated colleges, and between those and the University. Nothing has ever happened to disturb the harmonious relations which those institutions have always borne to one another, and so far from any collision with the University occurring, the Vice-Chancellor of that institution, in the year of grace 1911, by the unanimous vote of the Council, is Dr. McFarland, the Master of Ormond.

In November 1883, the ceremonies in connection with the induction of the newly appointed Professors of Theology at Ormond College took place at the Assembly Hall. The Rev. J. Gardner, Moderator of the General Assembly, having conducted devotional

exercises, the Rev. A. J. Campbell gave an interesting historical sketch of the provisional means adopted by the Church for the training of a native ministry. Professor Macdonald then, in the course of an eloquent and learned inaugural address, pointed out the necessity for religious teachers being close students of history, especially religious history, as its importance in relation to a proper understanding of the Word of God could not be overvalued. He urged also the importance of hermeneutical studies, and of a deep and thorough knowledge of theology in all its branches, remarking that theology need not be distrustful of reason, nor jealous of philosophy. He spoke of the uses and benefits of culture, and emphasised the need for spiritual training, a necessary element, surpassing even in importance the others to which reference had been made.

It was on this occasion (the opening of the nineteenth session of the Theological Hall) that the Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C., with a graceful oration, unveiled the memorial bust of the late Dr. Adam Cairns, which stood on a pedestal in the hall.

At the meeting of the Assembly, Mr. Ormond, in acknowledging a unanimous vote of thanks tendered to him by the Moderator, said: "Some months ago it had been found that the accommodation at the College was not equal to the demand, and, in accordance with plans prepared, he had authorised an enlargement to be effected. The prospect of the College's future, which had seemed to him a very bright one, had been a little while before considerably dimmed



PROF. MACDONALD.



by the unhappy divisions in the Church.\* Some of his warmest friends had grown less enthusiastic, and had informed him that they would withdraw all their interest from the institution, as well as retire from the Council, at the same time warning him that the College would be ruined if certain things were done and certain gentlemen were appointed as professors. Now, however, he thought that on reflection those gentlemen would still give the College the benefit of their interest and counsel. He would like to clear away a misapprehension with regard to the College. Many were under the impression that it was a purely sectarian institution, open only to Presbyterians, and that the Theological Hall professors govern and control it. A short time ago a member of Parliament, an ex-mayor of the city, informed him that it was in contemplation to establish a college in connection with the University which would be unsectarian and open to all comers. He remarked this under the impression that Ormond College was open only to Presbyterians. But he told that gentleman, and would now state, that the Ormond College was open to all denominations, it was unsectarian and unpolitical, open to all good, right-living men, who were anxious to obtain the higher education it was designed to supply, and all would be welcomed. It was never intended that the institution should be purely sectarian; and that was one of the reasons, he believed, that had moved those naming the College to—against his desire—give it the name of

\* "The Scottish Church in Victoria, 1851-1901," by C. Stuart Ross, page 40.

Ormond, in preference to St. Andrew's or St. Columba's. He had not, as some people thought, been anxious that it should bear his name. He was proud that the Theological Hall should be within its walls, as he was persuaded that students studying for the Church would give a quieting and high tone to any educational institution. Notwithstanding all that had been said about the divisions amongst them, he had every confidence that their friends who had assisted in the work would not do anything to frustrate him in his efforts to make the College one of the most prosperous in the Southern hemisphere."

Thirty-five students had been in residence, three of whom were attending lectures in the Theological Hall only. In addition to these there were four non-resident students attending lectures in university subjects—making a total of thirty-nine students who had availed themselves of the advantages offered by the institution during the year.

It was particularly gratifying to Mr. Ormond to know that the courageous stand which he had taken on the side of truth, in the controversy into which the Church had been drawn, had resulted in no weakening of public interest in Ormond College. The accommodation was not sufficient for all the applicants for admission, and again the generous founder added to the many obligations under which he had already laid the Church by entering into a contract for a new wing facing Sydney Road, which, when completed, would cost about £15,000. The Council congratulated him on the complete success which had

resulted from his munificence and labours in the cause of higher education.

“A year of constant work,” is the record of his diary. “Meetings, sometimes five in a day: *e.g.*, Chief Secretary’s office 2 o’clock; Sabbath Observance League 3.30; R.H. Society 4.15; Parliamentary work, Education Commission, Working Men’s College, Church work, besides private business.”

## CHAPTER XXII

### COMUNN NA FEINNĒ ; WORKING MEN'S CLUBS ; AQUATIC CONTESTS

THERE was a large Highland element in the population of Geelong. Dr. McIntosh McKay, convener of the Gaelic Committee of the Free Church of Scotland, had specially interested himself in the social and economic conditions of his countrymen. He had seen with troubled heart fair reaches of fertile land swept of human habitations to make room for sheep and grouse and deer, and poor families forced down to the coast, where they were fain to occupy small crofts, or to wrest a precarious living from the sea. He therefore promoted the formation of an association, under distinguished patronage, whose object was to collect funds to provide outfits for poor families who might desire to cross the seas to other lands where life might be lived under sunnier skies and with larger promise of success than they had ever known before. It was stipulated that the sums thus advanced should be paid back in five years, and thus form a perpetual emigration fund available for those who might be allured to try their fortunes on the colonial field. The cost of passage was defrayed by the Victorian



Government, whose policy was framed to attract population to occupy these empty lands. Committees were appointed both in London and in Melbourne to carry into effect the aims which the association had in view. The scheme seemed to work well and to promise beneficent results, and its promoters were full of hope that the social condition of many of their countrymen would be thus materially improved.\*

Many of those Scottish immigrants prospered, and lingering memories of the "land of mountain and flood" which they had left behind them led them to form at Geelong a Caledonian Society, or Comunn na Feinne, of which Mr. Ormond was elected chief. On New Year's Day, when their national fête was held, he was present to witness their sports, and during the early part of the year 1884 his time was much occupied in attending public functions at which he always spoke as the parliamentary representative of a wide constituency.

A great meeting of working men was held in the Town Hall in 1884, for the purpose of affirming the desirability of forming working men's clubs in Melbourne. The spacious hall was crowded to excess, and the gallery was filled with ladies interested in the proceedings. The Mayor of Melbourne occupied the chair, and Bishop Moorhouse and others addressed the meeting. Mr. Ormond, who was present, had great pleasure in supporting the resolution in favour of forming such clubs. He had taken an interest in all schemes that had for their object the welfare, im-

\* "The Scottish Church in Victoria, 1851-1901," page 77.

provement, and social elevation of his fellow-colonists. He instanced the practical good he had seen to flow from a working men's club which, some years previously, he had visited in Scotland. When he entered the hall it was with the intention of hearing the views of those who advocated the establishment of clubs for working men, and to learn upon what lines it was intended to conduct them. The great object of a working men's club was to have a place to which working men could retire and spend their leisure time in a far better manner than they did at present. Great care would have to be taken in regard to the government. Some years ago, while on a visit to Scotland, he inspected an institution which partook of the character of a working men's club, and he was pleased to learn that it was a great success. It had occurred to him that the free reading rooms attached to mechanics' institutes throughout the Colony could, by the addition of another room, be utilised as working men's clubs. In throwing out that suggestion he did not wish to discourage the erection of the proposed working men's club, for he believed that it would result in a great deal of good being done to the working men of Melbourne.

The Ormond Club was a philanthropic agency that did good work in the moral and social reformation of the young men in Carlton. It was founded by Mr. Hume Robertson, who, at the time of its formation, was a student at Ormond College and president of the Ormond Missionary Society. He took a lively interest in the welfare of young Australians. Possessed

of a bright, hopeful, genial spirit, full of sympathy with the young, eager to lift up to higher ground and to fire with some lofty purpose those who idly roamed the streets, with no apparent aim in life, he cast about for some way of helping them, and fell upon the plan of forming a club, which had for its objects "the moral, intellectual, and physical improvement, and the amusement of its members." A humble room was secured in an unpretentious cottage in Faraday Street, and that became the meeting place of the young people. Mr. Robertson threw himself with skill and tact into this new and gracious enterprise, and used all means to interest and influence those with whom he came into personal touch. At the outset he had to encounter difficulties of no small magnitude that lay in his path, but his enthusiasm and persistence won the day: his beneficent work was crowned with a large measure of success. On January 26, 1885, a special meeting of the club was held to welcome the president, Mr. Ormond. There was a large muster of members, numbering nearly one hundred. The president, who was accompanied by the Hon. James MacBain, M.L.C., and by Mr. R. Gillespie, suitably addressed the assemblage, and by way of manifesting his practical sympathy with the movement, presented £100 "to help the club to get better premises."

With a desire to develop the physical as well as the intellectual side of the students' nature, and to promote a healthy inter-collegiate rivalry, Mr. Ormond interested himself in rowing contests. In 1884, a

new four-oared boat built for the Ormond College received its name on the Yarra, the ceremony being performed by Miss Ormond, after whom it was named *Alice*. Mr. Ormond said, on that occasion : " Being the son of a sailor, and having lived my early school-days on the banks of the Mersey, I acquired a fondness for sailing and rowing which clings to me still. Rowing is an exhilarating, chest-expanding, muscle-developing, health and strength giving exercise, and it takes men away from the din and dust of town. Then it is enjoyably invigorating, and surely there is nothing more delightful than a smart pull on the silent highway in the still, cool eve, ' when all is hushed save the distant splash of the boatman's oar, as it dips in the sparkling water.' On Saturday last I saw sufficient to fill me with delight—Episcopalians and Presbyterians rowing in the same boat, Mr. Langton stroke, and Mr. Robb bow oar, with sturdy Presbyterians between. My dearest wish in founding Ormond College is realised, for if there is one thing I aim at more than another it is that different sects should pull happily together. . . . On Saturday last, when witnessing the races, it struck me that as there was nothing to particularly mark the fact of the win, I might be doing a service by giving a trophy, and so stimulate a greater interest in the competition—a trophy to be competed for annually, and only to be held by the winning college till wrested from it: and now I will make a proposal which shall be for the consideration of the authorities and students of Trinity and Ormond Colleges, to the effect that, as

founder of Ormond College, I will give a trophy of the value of three hundred guineas to be competed for in eight-oar boats by crews of Trinity and Ormond in 1886, 1887, 1888, and thereafter annually by eight-oar crews of Trinity, Ormond, and another institution ; to be named by the donor of the trophy, conditions as to time and place to be arranged by a committee of three from each institution." Enthusiastic cheers, which rang out again and again, were given for Mr. Ormond when this announcement was made.

He thus gave a powerful incentive to the crews of college rowing clubs to become efficient in that form of manly exercise. It was a splendid trophy that was offered, of exceptionally large value for an aquatic contest, and could not fail to impart new stimulus to the college crews to put forth strenuous efforts to win success. Trinity won in 1885, and again in 1886, but the three following years the trophy fell to Ormond, which, since 1889, has contested the race with varying success.

The record in Mr. Ormond's diary at the close of 1884 is as follows : " Very busy year. Parliament ; Education Commission ; Church work ; beginning of work for Chair of Music ; and, at end of year, arranging to take over Borriyalloak."

## CHAPTER XXIII

### MUSICAL CULTURE IN MELBOURNE ; CHAIR OF MUSIC ; MARRIED TO MISS OLIPHANT

MR. ORMOND was not a musician, but had a good ear and a pleasant singing voice, which, had it been cultivated when he was young, would have given excellent results. He had no technical knowledge of the art, but keenly enjoyed good music, and attended the higher class of concerts and musical festivals in London.

In the year 1882, a movement was made in the direction of establishing the Royal College of Music in London. Application was made to Mr. Ormond for help, and he subscribed one hundred guineas to the fund. That was quite in line with his own educational ideals, for he believed that no education is complete without some knowledge of music. At the same time it occurred to him that something might be done to further musical culture in Victoria, to refine the taste, exercise an uplifting influence on the young and lure them from baser and grosser joys. With that end in view he made such inquiries as would prepare him to take up the subject as soon as his other philanthropic schemes were firmly established.

There was no inconsiderable element of teachers and votaries of the art among us. That was put in clearest evidence occasionally in concerts and other festivals, which gave new brightness and charm to our social life. Far back in our colonial history, music had a place theoretically in our academic curriculum. When the University of Melbourne was constituted, its founders received powers from the Crown to confer degrees in music. But for long years such degrees were a patent unreality. No one taught it, no one examined, and no one ever offered himself as a candidate for its honours.

Up to the year 1880, the facilities for a musical education were not great. There was an institution termed the Musical Association of Victoria, which offered certificates and diplomas of certain grades to those musical aspirants who desired to have something tangible to show for years of honest study. This Musical Association was apparently formed by a small section of teachers of music. Certainly a large number of the leading musicians of Melbourne were not enrolled among its members.

The Melbourne School of Music, conducted by private enterprise, with assistant masters of the principal's own selection, had done good work in musical education; and its leading pupils held certificates of competency of approved value. Again, there were individual teachers of good standing and of known ability who, not recognising the authority of either of the above institutions, adopted the plan of issuing certificates to their own pupils. When Dr. Torrance, in

November 1880, delivered his lecture on music, according to arrangements made by the Social Science Congress, he advocated the establishment of a School of Music on the plan of the Royal Academy and kindred European institutions.

Four years later, Mr. J. Summers wrote to the press suggesting that colonial musical education should be placed on a broader basis than existed at that time. Public attention was thus directed to the subject, and other letters appeared in the interest of musical reform. Mr. Summers now made a practical and definite proposal which fell, however, on an unsympathetic and irresponsive public. He advocated the establishment of a Federal Australian College of Music. Five hundred subscribers, he stated, of £50 each, could found such a school, towards which he intimated his willingness to give £50.

At the Scotch College in 1884, on the occasion of a public function at which His Excellency the Governor presided, Mr. Ormond first spoke of the new scheme of beneficence which was now taking shape in his mind. He then announced that he purposed on his next visit to Europe to inspect, if possible, some of the better known colleges, or conservatoires, of music; and if his observations sufficiently encouraged him to do so, he would be pleased to aid in the establishment of a College of Music here. He thought £20,000 or £30,000 would suffice for such an undertaking: of which sum he would be prepared to contribute no small share, should the idea find acceptance with the people.

The announcement quickly spread and awakened



a lively interest in the city ; and at a meeting held in the Town Hall it was generally agreed that the Colony was not yet ripe for the establishment of a College of Music, and that the cause of musical education here would be better served by founding a Chair of Music at the University with scholarships attached. Mr. Ormond left it an open question as to the best means of achieving the object he had in view. He invited the assistance of the musical profession and the public generally in deciding the point. Three schemes were proposed—first, that a national orchestra should be formed ; second, that a College of Music should be established ; third, that a Chair of Music should be founded at the Melbourne University. Acting upon the representations made to him, Mr. Ormond decided that the foundation of a Chair of Music was the best way in which the money could be expended ; and he offered to hand the sum of £20,000 over to the University Council, conditionally upon a sum of £3,500 being raised by the public for the endowment of three scholarships of the annual value of £50 each.

Mr. Ormond believed that all who were interested in the education of the people would be likewise interested in music, as no system of education was complete without it. It had a most refining and improving effect. High-class church music, he affirmed, tended greatly to promote deep religious feeling. While in Europe, he had the opportunity of listening to the best music, and from his experience of music in the colonies, he felt that we wanted a much better standard of music in our concerts, churches, and homes ;

and he therefore desired to formulate the best scheme for promoting a higher system of musical education in Victoria. His proposal was welcomed by influential members of the musical profession as one that would have a vast influence for good in the cause of musical education in the Colony. The meeting in the Town Hall expressed its preference for a Chair of Music, and agreed that the public should be asked to subscribe a sum of money sufficient to provide three scholarships of the value of £50 each—any surplus over the amount required for that purpose to be given to the Working Men's College. A committee was appointed to canvass for subscriptions to the fund.

Soon after that meeting was held, Mr. Ormond went to Europe. There he had abundant opportunities of intercourse with professional men who could help him to a wise decision on the perplexing question which he had now to face. He visited Venice, the Philharmonic Society at Florence, saw the conservatoria in Milan, Paris, and Brussels, and gained considerable information as to the working of these institutions. Thence he went to London, and, in frequent intercourse with Sir George Grove, learned much about the Royal College of Music, which had been established in 1882.

Ever mindful of his relation to the Church and always willing to serve her, he was present at the Assembly Meetings at Edinburgh in May, presented himself at the levée in Holyrood, and addressed the Assembly in the interests of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. After a few weeks' travel through Belgium, Switzerland, and France, he returned to London, where he was

married at Regent Square Church, by the Rev. Dr. J. Oswald Dykes, to Miss Oliphant, daughter of the late Mr. Ebenezer Oliphant, one of our most respected pioneers of the Western District.

Mr. Ormond intended to return to Victoria by way of America, and sketched a route for himself, by which he would be able to visit the principal centres, universities, and places of interest, but he was unable to carry out his plan, and on October 21 he sailed with Mrs. Ormond in the s.s. *Massilia*, and arrived at Melbourne on December 21, 1885.

## CHAPTER XXIV

### CONFLICT OF OPINION ; AND PUBLIC APATHY

VIGOROUS action was at once taken after the meeting in the Town Hall to collect the money required to secure Mr. Ormond's offer of £20,000. Some six thousand circulars were sent out to editors of newspapers, to every State School teacher, to Municipal Councils, to Musical Societies, and to colonists holding distinguished places, commending to all the duty of contributing, according to their means, in order that this great opportunity of such large national importance should not be lost. But the appeal fell on heedless ears. It is true that many other matters of more immediate interest were engaging the public mind. The Gordon Memorial Fund appealed almost simultaneously to the generosity of our people, and the Heytesbury Forest Fire Relief Fund was a cry for help which could not be disregarded. But in face of all that it seemed strange that there was such feeble response to the committee's appeal. It had, somehow or other, come to be said that in Australia there was a deep and ardent love for music, that the Australian ear was quick to catch sweet melodies, that the Australian voice was

wedded to song. But the months slipped away in fruitless endeavour to collect the stipulated amount till, in December 1885—ten months after the movement was begun—the actual cash received in aid of the Scholarship Fund amounted to about £40 !

This was very remarkable, seeing that in Melbourne alone there was a Musical Association, two Lieder-tafeln, a Philharmonic Society, a Musical Artists' Society, a Society of Organists, and orchestral and dramatic societies without number. Then, in the State Schools of the Colony, singing was taught by some thirty-six masters, at an annual cost of about £8,000, and the children in all the large schools were supposed to receive a sound elementary knowledge of music. With all this activity, however, and apparent devotion to the art, one was forced to doubt whether there was any general enthusiasm in Melbourne on the subject of musical culture.

The question of the application of the offered donation was freely discussed in the public press. There was no unanimity on this point. Members of the musical profession seemed to be hopelessly divided in opinion. A Chair of Music, it was contended by some, would by no means meet the obvious wants of the Colony: a conservatorium, or technical school, was required. Again, there were some who advocated the forming and maintaining of a large and highly trained national orchestra, "which would be able to give periodical renderings of the noblest works of the great masters of the musical art." There were men who objected to a College of Music on the ground that

it would prove injurious to the profession! Some who had never soared beyond the realm that is dominated by questions of facilities of trade and economies of life suggested that the money offered would be better applied to improving the roads! or to founding a self-supporting Agricultural College! Here, as in other schemes for benefiting the public, Mr. Ormond met with much disappointment and discouragement: he was harassed by many difficulties and overwhelmed with letters, many of which were marked by a carping and contentious tone.

The apathy of the Australian public in this connection contrasts with the enthusiastic action of the people in the Homeland. A similar offer would have had a more cordial and responsive reception there. No doubt the social conditions of the two lands were widely different. There was a large affluent and leisured class in Britain who cultivated the æsthetics of life with a self-abandonment and devotion which, from the circumstances of the case, could hardly be expected in a country like this—less than fifty years before the hunting ground of the aborigines. When, in 1882, a scheme was proposed in England to establish the Royal College of Music, the large sum of £112,000 was collected for the object within four months of its initiation. Here it was not possible to collect the small sum required without having recourse to public entertainments. Mr. L. L. Lewis, who was well known for his musical attainments and for his intelligent sympathy with everything calculated to advance the art of music, appreciating the greatness of

the opportunity now presented, came to the assistance of the committee, and organised a grand concert in aid of the fund, the proceeds of which amounted to £667.

On February 2, the time stated by Mr. Ormond for the fulfilment of the generous conditions he had imposed expired, and the committee found that, including the result of Mr. Lewis's exertions, only about £750 had been raised towards the required sum of £3,000, as neither the musical profession nor the general public had responded in a liberal spirit to the appeals made to them. The committee therefore requested an extension of time to enable them to obtain the balance of the amount required to found three annual scholarships of £50 each. Mr. Ormond acceded to the request, renewed his offer, and extended the time to the close of 1886.

The friends of the movement now applied themselves with new energy to the task of rousing the people to a sense of the advantages they would secure through compliance with the conditions of Mr. Ormond's gift. They pressed the importance of the situation upon them, and here and there a new interest was awakened, and channels opened, through which subscriptions flowed. Towards the close of March, it was announced that the amount contributed was about £1,800—but that included a grant from the University of £1,000, leaving only £50 as the additional contribution of a wealthy community to the fund!

There was much talking and vexatious conflict

of opinion regarding the application of the money : and, on April 20, a number of musicians met to discuss the subject. It was then decided by a majority that the establishment of a conservatorium would be of more practical value than a Chair of Music at the University.

Mr. Ormond returned to the Colony towards the close of 1885, and at a meeting held in the Town Hall on September 3, 1886, he explained his intentions as to the disposal of the proposed gift. His own idea, in the first place, had been for a college, but he saw a difficulty in the way. He wished to assist provided the public would raise another £20,000, making in all £40,000, which he considered was the smallest amount they could manage to make a start with, as it would take all the interest on his £20,000 to pay fees and other claims. After visiting nearly all the conservatoria in Europe, and computing cost of building, salaries, and other expenses, he had come to the conclusion that the college must be abandoned. The orchestra was also out of the question, in consequence of the cost. Acting on some of the best advice he could obtain in England, and desirous of promoting not only musical art, but the wider acquirement of national musical culture, he offered to give £20,000 for the endowment of a Chair of Music, as the musical profession and the Director of the Royal College of Music, London, had expressed an opinion in favour of that.

Thus we see how ready he was to surrender his own judgment, and be guided by the judgment of those



whose long experience and eminence in the profession qualified them to speak with authority and weight, clearly indicating that he was animated by the one great purpose to serve the highest public good.

## CHAPTER XXV

### UNGENEROUS CRITICISM REPROVED

MR. ORMOND, having been subjected to severe criticism in connection with his scheme for founding a Chair of Music, wrote the following letter, which was published on February 15, 1887. It is now presented to the reader because it sufficiently disproves the groundless charges that were made against him, and his patient and forbearing attitude towards those who opposed him :

“ After a somewhat troubled overture, a Chair of Music *versus* Conservatorium *versus* Orchestra seemed to be pursuing a quiet and harmonious course, but your leader of Thursday was a discordant chord violently introduced, which, if it denotes a certain sound from a majority of the public, deserves thought and attention. Is the discord in the major key or only in the minor ? I have no desire to argue in the key of the dominant, far otherwise : and I feel strongly that the severe strictures of our leading newspaper are altogether undeserved. You remark that there is a wise and also a foolish way of making donations. Of this I am aware, and if by giving I injure the public, the injury would reflect on myself. If good arises, the

donor receives benefit in common with the rest. My idea was to assist in the establishment of a School of Music, conceiving such to be the best means of advancing the science of music in our Colony. Previous, however, to making my proposal, I took the precaution to call a meeting of gentlemen known to take an interest in musical education and the higher culture of the art. At this first meeting, after the fullest discussion of the *pros* and *cons*, a resolution was adopted in favour of a Chair of Music at the University as being the one practicable way of attaining the object, and I was invited to offer £15,000 for such, on condition that the public contributed £3,000 for the endowment of three musical scholarships.

“Departing from the School of Music idea, and falling in with the wish of the meeting *re* Chair of Music, I increased the foundation to £20,000 in order to secure the services of an eminent man for the professorship.

“The condition touching the scholarships not being readily complied with, the time for obtaining the £3,000 was enlarged. Another meeting was held at the Town Hall, the majority present being of the musical profession. The question of College or Chair of Music was again freely discussed. A vote being taken, the result was preponderatingly in favour of the Chair of Music. A committee of gentlemen afterwards resolved on holding a bazaar, and if an agreement was made by this committee that the disposal of the money should be left for further discussion, I am not averse to opening the question. If not already

committed to the Chair of Music scheme, and it can be shown that a College of Music is practicable with the money in hand, I shall only be too happy to meet the wish of the public, being anxious for finality and such a settlement of the subject as will be to the best advantage of the community, this having been my one aim throughout. And after devoting so much time and anxious consideration to this matter, and travelling far to obtain the opinion of eminent musicians on the Continent and Great Britain, it does seem ungenerous to be told that it would be better to keep the money for private use than to squander it in sensational and fruitless gifts.

“In giving money one seldom succeeds in gaining the appreciation of one’s contemporaries—that may be left to a later generation. I am, etc.,

“FRANCIS ORMOND.”

Time was now rapidly passing, and as subscriptions were coming in slowly, it was felt that something must be done. It was an impossible reflection that such an opportunity as now offered should be missed through failure in a wealthy community such as ours to raise the trifling amount stipulated for, to secure a national advantage of so great worth. The ladies therefore took the business in hand: they met, and under the presidency of Lady Stawell arranged to hold a carnival. They carried it forward with a glowing enthusiasm: it was a pronounced success, and realised upwards of £3,000.

Mr. Ormond now suggested that two ordinary

scholarships of the annual value of £50 and a travelling scholarship of the value of £150 should be established. He felt himself committed to a Chair of Music, but as he was anxious to do his best in the public interest, he left it open for those who objected to call a meeting, and lay before him their reasons against it. He waited patiently, but nothing was done. He therefore met by appointment the University Council in April 1887, and placed it in a position to appoint a professor to a Chair of Music. He received the thanks of the Council "for his great and generous gift." The overflowing fulness of his generosity is evidenced by the fact that, in addition to the gift of £20,000 for the endowment of the Chair, he agreed to pay £200 to cover the expenses of the professor's passage to Melbourne.

There are not many men benefactors of public institutions who disclaim the honour of having their names associated with their gifts. It is a form of commemoration that is coveted by some, and may save from absolute oblivion a name which has no splendid record behind it to commend the man who owned it to the veneration and gratitude of our race. This distinction belongs to Mr. Ormond that towards the close of the year 1887 he wrote to the University Council requesting very earnestly that his name be not prominently associated with the Professorship of Music. But he was respectfully asked to re-consider his decision: "To name a professorship or other gift to a university after the donor is in accordance with numerous precedents, both British and colonial,

and it is in the opinion of the Council calculated to call forth the liberality of other benefactors." He yielded only on that ground. Others eager for posthumous fame might be led to do good by the shining example he had set before them.

On March 18, 1889, the Council having discussed the question of the appointment of a Professor of Music, it was resolved "that a copy of the correspondence from the Agent-General be sent to Mr. Ormond [who was then at Pau in France], and he be requested to confer with the Agent-General and with the commissioners, with the object of ascertaining, if possible, the best means of obtaining a competent professor for the chair, and report to this Council." Sir Anthony Brownless, Chancellor of the University, sent the press report of that resolution on to Mr. Ormond, but the state of his health rendered it impossible for him to accede to the request of the Council.

## CHAPTER XXVI

### A GREAT FUNCTION AT ORMOND COLLEGE :

#### WELCOME TO MR. AND MRS. ORMOND

MRS. ORMOND and her husband received a cordial welcome on their arrival at Melbourne, and it was most fitting that they should occupy a central and important place at the great function about to be held. The pressure on the available accommodation had induced the Council to proceed with the erection of the south-west wing, which, in the absence of Lady Loch, it was arranged should be opened by Mrs. Ormond. A *déjeuner* in celebration of the event and to welcome the generous donor and his wife was given on December 23, 1885. The large dining-room was tastefully decorated for the occasion with the Melbourne coat-of-arms, flags, and appropriate mottoes in several languages. Over the chair were suspended coloured bannerets inscribed with the word "Welcome," and the motto of the College, *Et nova et vetera*. It was a bright and picturesque spectacle that met the eye, and all faces radiated the gladness that filled the hearts of the assembled guests who were privileged to be present on that auspicious occasion.

Before the company sat down, the Rev. D. S.

McEachran, Moderator of the General Assembly, in the name of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria welcomed Mrs. Ormond. "Her reputation," he said, "as a Church worker had travelled before her, and people here knew the stock of which she had come. Those who had gone before her had been noted for their deep interest in the cause of God and their untiring efforts to diffuse far and wide the knowledge of the Cross. Her family had for many years been identified with the cause of evangelical religion in the South of France. It must be very gratifying to her to see so signal a proof of Mr. Ormond's magnificent liberality to the Presbyterian Church as this College. It was not the only monument of his liberality in the city, but it was the most splendid. It was designed to be a place of residence for students at the University, where they could enjoy the advantages of proper supervision, receive assistance in their studies, and might, by contact with other students, have their minds sharpened and their angles rubbed off. The object was to send out into the world educated young men of high character. . . . It was thought desirable that the new wing should be opened by Lady Loch, but unavoidable circumstances stood in the way, and now every one would be glad that the ceremony was to be performed by the wife of the donor on her arrival in the Colony."

Mrs. Ormond, who was cordially received, said she was sure they would all feel disappointed that Lady Loch was unable to carry out her kind intention to be present and perform the agreeable ceremony of open-





MRS. FRANCIS ORMOND.

The diagram shows a 2D hexagonal lattice of atoms. A central atom is highlighted with a larger, solid black circle. The lattice is divided into two regions by a vertical dashed line. The left region is labeled 'Left' and the right region is labeled 'Right'. The central atom is located at the boundary between the two regions.

ing this new wing. Failing Lady Loch, the Council of the College had done her the honour of asking her to open it, an honour for which she was quite unprepared. Though long absent from her native country she had always taken a deep interest in things here, and she had heard much about Ormond College. Perhaps they might think she looked with a favouring eye upon what her husband had taken a deep interest in ; but she thought that any impartial stranger seeing this building, its handsome proportions and elegant design, could not fail to be impressed with it. She had also seen its spacious rooms, with their lofty ceilings, which rooms were replete with every convenience and comfort. She thought everything was excellent, and contrasted most favourably with other educational institutions in Europe, many of which, although very quaint and endeared by old associations, lacked signs of modern ideas of comfort. It was a proof of the prosperity of Ormond College that it required this new wing. Every one hoped it would soon require the other. She thanked them most heartily for their kindly welcome, and it was now her pleasing duty to declare the new wing open.

Mrs. Ormond sat down amid the ringing cheers of the great audience. Her speech, the press reported, "was admirably conceived and nicely given, and excited the liveliest interest in those who heard it. Those who have followed with approbation Mr. Ormond's endeavours to make wealth serve the noblest purposes will rejoice that he has found a partner who will be a fellow helper in every good word and work."

The chairman (Hon. James MacBain), in proposing the toast, "Welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Ormond," paid a fitting tribute to the high character and magnificent generosity of the former, and concluded by reading the following address to Mrs. Ormond, who, he was sure, would not only prove a fitting help-meet to her husband, but an ornament to our colonial society :

*"To Mrs. Francis Ormond.*

"DEAR MADAM,—

"We, a number of your own and your husband's friends, desire to tender to you and him, on your arrival from Europe, our hearty welcome home to Victoria, and to beg your acceptance of this wedding gift in token of our sincere good wishes and God-speed.

"Mr. Ormond has already in many ways proved himself the benefactor of our Colony's truest interests, and now he has bestowed upon it an additional good, by bringing back to it as his wife one of its own daughters—one who, we know, will take the same warm interest in all that concerns our young nation's weal, educational, social, and religious, that he does himself. We are glad that, after your residence in Europe, you have chosen to return to our sunny southern land, and we very earnestly wish you all the pleasantness life can bring in the career of wide usefulness which lies before your husband and yourself here.

"We feel that no act could inaugurate your wedded life among us in a matter better befitting your hus-

band's past career, or your own kindred interest in educational advancement, than the part you have to-day taken in throwing open the new wing of Ormond College—the noble academic building which your husband's generosity has founded."

(Signed) "JAMES MACBAIN,

"THOMAS SHAW,

"ALEXANDER MORRISON,"

and many others.

The wedding gift was a very handsome set of silver candelabra and fruit stands of silver and cut glass. Mr. Ormond suitably acknowledged the gift.

The Bishop of Melbourne (Dr. Moorhouse), in an interesting reply to the toast of the University, said "he really thought that in the time to come there would be no name in the Colony more respected than that of Mr. Ormond. Two monuments like the Ormond College and the Professorship of Music would show there was once a man in Victoria who understood the true value of money, and the noble uses to which it could be applied by a noble-minded man, a man who had not been a miser who got to hoard, nor a voluptuary who got to enjoy, nor a mere worldling who got in order that he might strut his little hour in the eyes of all. He was a man who, recognising in his money something given to him by God, determined to glorify the Giver by benefiting His children. If that was so, verily Mr. Ormond would not miss his reward."

Other interesting speeches were delivered by leading

public men, all contributing to make the function a distinguished success.

Mr. Ormond not only gave money, he took a deep practical interest in the working of the institution, and contributed to its popularity and usefulness from the rich stores of his own personal knowledge and experience. He regularly attended the meetings of the Council, and at the College gatherings he was always received with the greatest enthusiasm. The appointments of the institution are unexceptionable: the accommodation is confessedly of a character and comfort unsurpassed in any building in the world devoted to educational purposes. Lord Augustus Loftus said, on the occasion of his visit to Ormond College, that "it was one of the most admirably organised and arranged public institutions he had ever seen in his life."

## CHAPTER XXVII

### INAUGURATION OF THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE

MR. ORMOND received a cordial welcome from the Council of the Working Men's College on his return to the Colony. The portion of the building contracted for was now almost completed, and it was necessary to take steps towards utilising the institution for the purpose for which it was intended. The president, therefore, addressing a meeting of the Council held in April 1886, said: "They were now in this position: nearly £11,000 had been expended in building and they had no funds in hand for carrying on the legitimate work of the institution. With a view to remedying this state of things and placing the College on a working footing, he would give £500 per annum for two years, provided the public subscribed an equal annual sum for the same period. In addition to that he promised that if £7,500 more were collected (he would not attach on this occasion any condition as to the time in which the money should be subscribed), he would adhere to his second offer and pay the cost of constructing the whole of the College. He thought one of their first duties should be the appointment of a caretaker and a secretary. It would be the business

of the latter officer to organise the classes and arrange for the delivery of lectures. It would be well to popularise the institution at the start by the delivery of a course of lectures that would be interesting to working men as a body. Classes could afterwards be organised. . . . In Bradford, Birmingham, Manchester, and other places where working men's colleges flourished, it was the recognised custom for leading citizens to contribute annual subscriptions towards their support. Wealthy corporations, too, subscribed in a similar generous manner. It was everywhere perceived in Great Britain, France, and Germany that a great deal depended on the improved culture of the working classes, and his sole idea in founding the Working Men's College of Melbourne was to endeavour to elevate, improve, and educate the working men of Victoria. In the old country, men like Lord Aberdeen and Sir Stafford Northcote were accustomed to lecture in working men's colleges, and he believed that no difficulty would be experienced in getting good lecturers in this Colony too. A working men's club might be incorporated in the existing institution, and would act as a feeder to the College."

At a subsequent date, the Premier, in reply to a deputation of the Council which waited upon him, said, if he could see his way to do it, he would be very glad to put £1,000 on the supplementary estimates as a grant to the Working Men's College.

Mr. F. A. Campbell, C.E., was appointed permanent secretary, and it was decided to organise a series of weekly popular lectures for the winter months; to



invite students to enrol their names for various classes ; and to inaugurate the opening of the institution by a public meeting in the Town Hall.

On May 6, 1887, a great meeting was held in the Town Hall in connection with the opening of the Working Men's College. The spacious hall was crowded by an audience composed largely of working men ; ladies filled the galleries, and among the distinguished company on the platform were the Premier, the Attorney-General, the Minister of Education, Sir George Verdon, the Mayor of Melbourne (Mr. Cain), Mr. Ham, and other public men, as well as representatives of the Trades' Hall Council.

Mr. Ormond, who presided, said : " . . . Education is a great factor, and the education that will be obtainable in this your institution will be the means of levelling the people very much. I feel that the brain power is not the monopoly of the wealthier classes. It is out of the great masses of the people, with healthy bodies and healthy minds, that we expect to get our future rulers of this great country." The president, having read the report presented by the Council, continued : " We want to place the greatest possible educational facilities within the reach of the young artisans. We feel that the time has gone by for main strength and stupidity to govern the work of men. We want to cultivate the intellect of the working man : to give him the science of his trade and business, so that there shall be no more rule of thumb to guide him in his work. As an encouragement to young men to come forward I may venture to say

that it is in the minds of the Government to offer scholarships to the State schools to enable the young men, when leaving at the age of fourteen years, to carry on their studies for another three years. These scholarships will be available at the Working Men's College, and we will put in a teaching staff second to none for technical art and science work."

The Premier (the Hon. Duncan Gillies) gave an eloquent Inaugural Address, in which he eulogised our State educational system, and spoke of the advantages of working men's colleges, for which there is absolute need in these days of national industrial warfare. Messrs. Douglas, Bromley, Sir George Verdon, the Hons. C. H. Pearson and W. M. K. Vale also addressed the meeting.

The Government, now fully seized of the importance of this great enterprise, responded liberally to appeals for financial help; and in reply to a deputation of the Council who waited on him to ask for assistance to enable it to furnish and carry on the work of the College, the Premier expressed his interest in it, and promised "the sum of £2,000 for the current year, and an additional £1,000 if the first-named sum should be found insufficient to meet the requirements of the institution."

On June 7, 1887, the lecture hall of the Working Men's College was crowded to excess, the occasion being the first general gathering of the young men who had enrolled themselves, to hear an address from the president on the course of study to be pursued, and other matters of importance to them.

When Mr. Ormond rose to speak he was received with enthusiastic cheers. "Students of the Working Men's College," he said, "I cordially and heartily welcome you to this your educational home: yours, because the building so far has been erected by voluntary contributions, and as you are to pay for instruction, this College cannot in any way be regarded as a charity. There are times and occasions for rejoicing, and surely this is one. Long and longingly have I looked forward to this day, the commencement of the educational work which is to be carried on here.

"To open with so large a number of students and so able a staff of instructors is most gratifying and encouraging to the members of the Council, who have devoted so much time and anxious thought to the establishment and work of the institution. The greatest care and judgment have been exercised in designing the College to make the class-rooms and lecture hall convenient and suitable. Then, in the appointment of teachers, the one aim of the Council has been to select those best calculated to carry out the scheme of instruction in a worthy manner. The same policy has been pursued in regard to lecturers, and I am glad to think that the services of men of known ability and powers have been secured.

"The series of lectures which was begun last month will be continued throughout the winter. Good lectures are a valuable means of imparting instruction. They induce a spirit of inquiry and awaken a desire for higher education. An eminent English statesman, in a recent speech at the Owen College, said: 'There

are three motives which might inspire working men to attend lectures involving higher education and higher learning: one might be to improve their knowledge as breadwinners; another might be to advance themselves by the study of political economy, and of history and other studies, to advance themselves in the capacity for performing public and civic duties; but there is the third object, and that is the spread of knowledge among all classes of the community, because the possessing of that knowledge will brighten the lives and increase the interest of life and the sum of human happiness.'

"Having told you what has been done in regard to supplying teachers, I would now point out that it is expected that you will do your part and by diligently applying yourselves to the studies you purpose engaging in, gain a position for yourselves and reputation for the College. Thus you will have the satisfaction and pleasure of rewarding those who have taken such untiring interest in the undertaking. I have every confidence that you will attach yourselves closely to the institution, and that you will become so identified with it as to be animated by that *esprit de corps* which soldiers feel when they fight as one man for the credit and honour of their regiment. Make the College your own. Say *our* college, *our* teachers.

"You are at the beginning of the educational life of the institution, and its future success greatly rests with you. Every man who receives instruction here will carry the benefit into the circle in which he moves. Intellectual activity is in itself a moral safeguard.

The enterprise which the subscribers to the College have entered on is a noble one, the glorious end of which we cannot now discern. There are no conditions on which this institution is founded. Of course it is needful that you should have respect not only for your teachers, but for one another. 'Honour all men' is a motto to be borne in mind. Burke says, 'Restraint and discipline, examples of virtue and justice—these are what form the education of the world.'

"The College is unsectarian, non-political, and open to wage-earners of both sexes. The rules will be so framed from time to time as to be always in harmony with the circumstances and requirements of the age. The course of study will be wide, and special education will be afforded in the principles of science having relation to the work of all classes of artisans. That education which teaches things outside the narrow circle of your own habitual ideas will make you more able to perform your parts as intelligent and honest citizens, and give you a clear sense of the place you are to fill in the world and society. The teachers will guide your studies, but you, young men, must depend on yourselves. Each must realise that he has to educate himself. Education, like all other work, must be largely done by those for whose benefit it is intended. Do not allow the means to deceive you into thinking that they are education itself. Appliances are great helps, but these alone will not make scholars.

"The necessity for the scientific and technical training of the working classes is now prominent in the

minds of thinking people. France, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Bavaria, and other countries are expending vast sums of money in this direction. Britain also, by the largeness of the annual grant to her art and science schools, is evidently fully alive to the urgent necessity of arming herself for the great industrial fight. This institution and its proposed work have already attracted the attention of our Government, and I trust that at the close of this year we shall be able to show such results as will justify Parliament in not only continuing the present grant of £2,000 to the institution, but increasing the sum. Our College is central and convenient, and its proximity to the Technical Museum, National Gallery, and Library places their resources within your easy reach for reference.

“And now, students, another word of advice. Set yourselves a high standard, yet be not disappointed if you do not at once attain to it. You must be willing to begin low down, and thus qualify yourselves for rising step by step, according to your powers and opportunities, and there is little doubt but you will rise if you exert your endowments aright. Be true to yourselves and your work. Always listen attentively. Concentrate every faculty on the matter treated. Even though it may not be interesting to you individually, it is training to the mind. Remember that the mind is weakened by letting the attention flag. The gentleman who lectured here last Saturday evening on the subject of ‘Labour and Culture,’ related an incident which it would be well to bear in mind. It

was of the painter Opie, who, when asked how he mixed his colours, replied, 'With brains.' And now, my parting word to you is to put energy and intelligence into all your work."

That was a day of supreme satisfaction to Mr. Ormond. It brought to him the realisation of a cherished dream, the accomplishment of a purpose by which he had been obsessed for years. Only those to whom he spoke on the subject could know how full and keen was the gratification derived from that event. His eye took a brighter sparkle, his voice a deeper tone when he spoke of it. It had cost him more toil than any other of his schemes, and, in carrying it to a successful issue, he had to encounter difficulties of no ordinary kind. It was, from the first inception of it, his own work, embarked upon in face of warnings of inevitable failure, and persevered in amid much indifference and mistrust on the part of those whom it was meant to benefit. With characteristic energy and tenacity of purpose he threw himself into the movement, bringing to it his enthusiasm, his practical sagacity and keen knowledge of human nature, for he was persuaded that it would be of incalculable benefit to the working men of this new land.

The roll of students on the opening night numbered 320. The fame of the institution rapidly spread as its advantages became apparent, and a few weeks later, in July, 420 were attending the classes. As new applications for enrolment were continually being made and refused, owing to the limited accom-

modation available, a deputation from the Council waited upon the Commissioner of Public Works to ask the assistance of the Government in extending the operations of the Working Men's College, which even thus early had abundantly justified its existence and its undoubted claims upon public support.



## CHAPTER XXVIII

### THE WYSELASKIE BOUNTIES ; THE GORDON TECHNICAL COLLEGE, GEELONG

THE new wing of Ormond College, formally opened by Mrs. Ormond in December 1885, rapidly filled with students, and at the beginning of 1887 Mr. Ormond announced his intention to commemorate the Queen's Jubilee by the erection of increased accommodation, to be known as the Victoria wing.

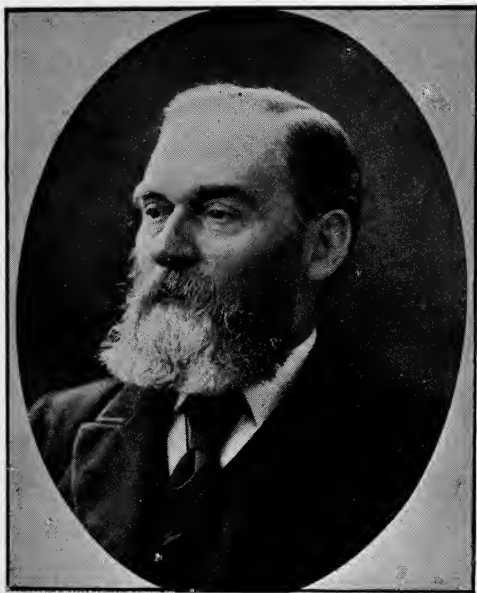
A new Lecture Hall erected within the grounds of the University in connection with Ormond College was opened in March 1887 by Mr. Ormond, in the absence of Sir James MacBain, President of the Legislative Council, who had been invited to perform the inaugural ceremony, but was prevented by the infirm state of his health. The whole cost of the new building was defrayed out of a legacy by the late Mr. J. D. Wyselaskie, formerly a sheep farmer in the Western District, and an ardent supporter of the Presbyterian Church. He bequeathed £20,000 for the endowment fund of the Theological Hall ; £10,000 for the erection of a new hall ; £10,000 for University scholarships ; and £5,000 for the Presbyterian Ladies' College. The walls of the new hall are adorned by

several oil-paintings of distinguished Presbyterians of the Puritan age—John Hampden, Philip Henry, Philip Doddridge, and Richard Baxter—presented by Mr. Ormond, Mr. Balfour, and other donors.

The Rev. Dr. Macdonald presided at the function, and at the conclusion of the opening fitting exercises, Dr. Morrison read the following letter, which had been received from Sir James MacBain:

“ . . . Our Church has much cause to thank God for the position she now occupies in regard to the higher education provided through the liberal and generous aid of her members, and, while I would not exclude the smallest contributor from the honour to which he is entitled, I think it only justice to refer in a few words to the two exceptionally largest donors of the Church and to whom we owe the erection of the two buildings in the Presbyterian portion of the University grounds. The Hon. F. Ormond cannot be too highly commended for his splendid and munificent gift to the Church, by the erection of the Ormond College, now about three-fourths finished, the balance to be completed as may be required. This building is unique for its extent and magnificence and particularly for the cost of it being paid by a gentleman now living amongst us, and which, to me, surrounds the gift with a rich aroma of generosity seldom met with in like circumstances. All honour to the man who had not only the money, but also the heart to part with it. His several contributions to education deserve not only the gratitude of our Church, but also that of the country.

THE  
NATIONAL  
ARCHIVES



SIR JAMES MACBAIN, K.C.M.G.



“The next largest donor to the Church, the late J. D. Wyselaskie, I only knew personally for a short time. He sought a private interview with me at which he asked if I would aid him with my advice in making a disposition in his will of a portion of his estate to the Presbyterian Church of Victoria. After consideration, and being assured that he had provided for all who had first claims on him, I gave my consent : the results of which are already known to you, and which I would like you to state to-morrow, as I now forget the exact amounts, not having the papers by me. It is right for me to say that I never knew bequests made more generously, and with a desire to benefit his adopted country, where he made his fortune. When I suggested to him the endowment of several Wyselaskie University scholarships, he at once said, ‘I will do that also.’ His bequest towards the building fund of the Theological Hall has been devoted to the erection of two professors’ houses and the Wyselaskie Lecture Hall, which is to be opened to-morrow. . . . I am, etc.,

“J. W. MACBAIN.”

Mr. Ormond, in declaring the new hall open, joined in the general regret at the cause of the absence of Sir James MacBain, whose high and honourable position in the Colony would have given *éclat* to that inaugural ceremony, and he hoped with them that the honourable gentleman would soon be able to return to his public duties with renewed health. The opening of that handsome building was an event of much

importance to Ormond College, and all who were interested in the success of that institution would feel grateful, as he did, to the generous founder of the new Lecture Hall. Mr. Wyselaskie was one of the earliest pioneers of Victoria, and by his industry and perseverance, combined with great intelligence and experience, he amassed a considerable fortune. His noble bequests to Ormond College demonstrated his great interest in its success, but his generosity was not confined to his own denomination, for he gave largely to all good causes. His assistance to Ormond College was most timely. The Ladies' College required a hall, and that new hall was much needed. It was a splendid building and would admirably fulfil all the purposes for which it was erected.

“The success of Ormond College had been very remarkable. When it was opened in 1881, its most sanguine supporters thought that the buildings would provide ample accommodation for the next ten years, but two years had scarcely gone by before the number of students had doubled, and the building was full. His attention was called to the necessity of further provision, and he responded. Additions were erected and opened, and now he was told that the number of students had doubled again, and the College was still too small. Ormond College seemed to be a standing investment for his surplus money. . . . The need of more extended accommodation was urgently pressing itself upon the attention of the College Council. As this was the Jubilee year of the reign of Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen, it would perhaps be a

fitting time to commence the erection of a portion of the new wing. He proposed therefore to commemorate the Jubilee by erecting a portion of the new wing, which would hereafter be known as the Victoria wing of Ormond College.

“There was room for others to join in the grand and good work which was being carried on in connection with Ormond College. A library building would soon be very much needed, and if some generous man would donate a sum for the purpose, he would make the hearts of the College Council exceedingly glad. That hall would suffice as a Chapel for a time, but a great institution like Ormond College, which, he trusted, would one day have its four hundred students, would soon require a capacious Chapel for religious services. The only duty now remaining was for him to declare the new Theological Hall open, with an expression of the hope that it would prove a highly useful adjunct to Ormond College.”

Other speakers who followed expressed their grateful appreciation of the announcement made that the generous founder intended to provide the enlarged accommodation so urgently required.

From that interesting function Mr. Ormond went to Geelong, to attend a meeting of the Committee of the Gordon Technical College. That had been founded in 1885, as a memorial of General Gordon, the hero of Khartoum. Its object, like that of the kindred institution in Melbourne, is to promote technical education by enabling students to obtain instruction in the application of the arts and sciences to the

ordinary purposes of life. Mr. Ormond, by his liberal donations, contributed largely to the successful founding of this College, and on June 20 he laid the foundation stone. He took a practical interest in its growth and in the extension of its operations, and made an interesting speech on the occasion of the formal opening of the College on November 14 following—enlarging on the advantages which such an institution offered to all who desired to improve their circumstances and win the coveted prizes of life.

To the enlightened patriotism, the liberality and wise discernment of Mr. George M. Hitchcock and other public-spirited citizens of Geelong, much of the success of the Gordon Technical School is due. Mr. Hitchcock has always stood in the van of every movement that has been made to promote the best interests of his fellow-men.



## CHAPTER XXIX

### RE-ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT; DROUGHT, FIRES, AND LOCUSTS

MR. ORMOND gave all due attention to the duties of the political office which he filled, and safeguarded the interests of his constituents in his wide electorate. The return to Parliament of men of his stamp—broad-minded men of unimpeachable honesty, who look beyond the narrow limitations of personal advantage to the promotion of the highest common good—not only reflects credit on an electorate, but touches influentially patriotic interests of far wider range. On the expiration of his term of office, Mr. Ormond again presented himself to his constituency as a candidate and, in August 1886, he was returned to Parliament unopposed, as member for the South-Western Province.

In October following he went to Geelong to open the Museum which had been established in connection with the Free Library. He had personally interested himself in securing mineralogical and other specimens for it, believing that such an institution would be of great educational value to the young people of the town and district.

As convener of the Presbyterian Ladies' College Committee, he was present at the opening of the Wyselaskie Hall by Lady Loch, and gave abundant evidence of his practical interest in the growing prosperity of the Ladies' College. The functions in connection with the public schools that mark the close of the year being past, he spent some time in the quietude of Kirndeen, his station on the border of New South Wales, and soon after, both he and Mrs. Ormond went to Borriyalloak, where they made a somewhat prolonged stay.

The opening months of the year 1887 were a period of much anxiety and distress to Mr. Ormond, in common with many of the pastoralists around him. It was a phenomenally hot season, with little rain beyond that which accompanied an occasional thunderstorm: the pastures were parched, the tanks were dry, and the creek shrunken to the dimensions of little more than a chain of water holes. There was imminent danger of fires, and if once ignited, the whole country might be swept by flames.

It was no uncommon thing to see a troop of horsemen speeding on from the villages amid a cloud of dust to assist in arresting the progress of fire. The carelessness of a Chinese traveller who, in lighting his pipe, flung the glowing match to his feet, instantly fired the dry pastures of Mooramong, which adjoined the Borriyalloak estate, and nearly a thousand acres were swept by the flames before they were quenched by willing hands.

The sundowner, often thoughtlessly, sometimes in

malice, set the parched grass ablaze. He represented a class of men who traversed the country on foot, swag on back, for the greater part of the year. They always got food and shelter for the night as they wandered from station to station. Whether they got work or not was a matter of minor importance to many of them, who, in fact, preferred not to take work if, to use their own phrase, they could "scrape along" without it. They derive their name from the circumstance that they present themselves at the homestead just before the close of the day—before the sun goes down: if they appear earlier than that, they may, or may not, receive a ration with an order to move on. They usually, therefore, spend the sunny hours of the day smoking or sleeping, or chatting in groups, arranging to arrive at sundown at their destination.

I have frequently given a weary-looking sundowner a seat beside me in the buggy, but he invariably asked to be allowed to alight a mile or more from the homestead, so that he might have opportunity to dream his dreams and ruminate until the regulation hour came when he might claim his supper and a corner in the travellers' hut in which to spread his blanket. The expense of supplying the needs of men of that class has, on some of the larger stations, been computed to amount to from £200 to £300 a year. Landowners sometimes chafed under these demands that were made upon them, and refused the dole that was asked. Their burning pastures, however, forced on them a reversal of policy: for though stringent penalties were enforced on legal convictions, yet it

was hard to get evidence clear enough to sheet home the charge.

On the night of January 13, an apparently determined effort was made to fire the grass on Borriyalloak. Evidence of that was found in the burnt patches that met the eye on every side, and the woolshed was burnt to the ground. There seemed to be no doubt that it was the work of an incendiary. The cook had turned away a man who had received rations, spent the day at the creek with a fishing line, and returned to the hut at night, again demanding food and shelter. These were refused, with an imperative order to pass on. That man was found next morning sleeping in the paddock, and he was suspected of having fired the shed. Black trackers were brought up from town, to assist the local police in their inquiries, but they could do nothing as, in the meantime, heavy rain had fallen and obliterated every footprint. The suspect was presented on the charge of having caused the fire, but no evidence was adduced connecting him with it. He was convicted, however, of vagrancy, and was committed to gaol for three months.

Then the locusts came: the press told us of the ravages they had caused in the far north, that they were moving southward devouring as they advanced the pastures and the fruits of the field. It was with apprehension that we awaited their coming. At length, one day, the vanguard appeared moving forward in straggling column. These were followed by an invading host which came up like a cloud and lighted on the land. Close to the village there were

patches of green in a field on the river bank—potatoes, mangolds, and other products of the earth, which had been carefully irrigated. These were consumed down to the ground. The locusts then fell on the fields, which were all left bare; the gardens were despoiled of flower and foliage; the needles even and bark of the pine trees were devoured by that hungry host.

As we walked they sometimes rose on the wing and smote hands and face with a stinging blow, and as we drove on the roads, where they loved to bask in the sun, countless numbers were crushed by the buggy wheels. No wonder the landowners felt some dread of the approach of the locust plague, and that Mr. Ormond recorded in his diary: "Remained at Borriyalloak till February 28—hot, drought, locusts. Very trying time."

## CHAPTER XXX

### DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO ORMOND COLLEGE

THE Earl and Countess of Aberdeen stand pre-eminent among British nobles for all those qualities of mind and heart that awaken in us admiration and respect. They are perhaps the most widely known and highly honoured of all who occupy a large place both in the political and social life of Britain. Full of sympathy with every effort that is made to uplift the fallen and help the poor, they have identified themselves with every movement that aims to elevate and improve our race.

Early in 1887, they crossed the seas on a visit to our land : and it was fitting that they should receive very special and marked attention on the occasion of their visit to Ormond College, on April 4 in that year. Three addresses were then presented to them : one from Sir James MacBain, on behalf of the Public Questions Committee of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria ; the second came from the Senatus, presented by the Rev. Dr. Rentoul ; and the third from the Ormond College Council.

A very cordial feeling was entertained and manifested by every member of the influential gathering

that assembled in honour of the visitors. The three addresses were admirably expressed. The warm friendship Lord Aberdeen has ever shown towards the Presbyterian Church was particularly dwelt on. There was hearty recognition of his and Lady Aberdeen's efforts in philanthropic and beneficent directions, of their sympathy with all movements which tend "to benefit the poor and ignorant, and ameliorate the condition of the toiling masses." Appreciative reference was made to his Lordship's past career as a statesman, and an apposite hope was expressed that his visit to these colonies would tend to draw together the bonds of affection between Great Britain and her colonial empire. Cordial speeches by public men supplemented these addresses of welcome.

Lord Aberdeen said "he would ask to be allowed to remark that it would be strange if he did not feel specially touched by the goodwill communicated to him by the Presbyterian Church, with which, not only by heredity, but personally and by nationality, he was so deeply concerned. He was pleased that the address was a joint one to Lady Aberdeen as well as to himself, for her Ladyship was equally entitled, with him, to the Scottish nationality, being a member of the ancient family of Marjoribanks. He thanked not only the members of the Church of Scotland, but the Presbyterian body as a whole. Among the many grateful associations of his stay in Ireland none was sweeter to himself and Lady Aberdeen than the remembrance of their deep friendship with that noble and beautiful character, Dr. Fleming Stevenson, whose

loss he might almost say was irreparable. Yet the echo of his life still sounded in the Presbyterian Church of Ireland, so that 'he being dead yet speaketh.' He was also much indebted to the chairman of the Ormond College Council for the brief statement of the objects and aims of the College. He had already for some time past heard a good deal of the institution, whose full purport was now put before him, but he did not so fully know before the depth of the debt they owed to its munificent founder.

"He was about to address the undergraduates as his 'young friends,' but being pleasantly reminded by their presence how lately he had put off his own academic dress, he preferred to call them his fellow-students. He would very shortly notice his own connection with the collegiate institutions of England and Scotland. Though an Oxford man himself, he had previously undergone the academic course at the Scotch University of St. Andrews, and it totally differed from the training of Oxford and Cambridge. It more resembled the German universities and the functions of the universities in the colonies as apart from their colleges. At St. Andrews an attempt was at last being made to meet the want which Ormond College seemed to supply—of a combination of the discipline of university life with that freedom and independence suited to the age and circumstances of its students. He had heard in a late speech of Mr. Ormond's the happy expression used of the 'home life' of the College, and this he regarded as one of the greatest advantages of its membership. What such



an institution gave was university life and formation of character, as well as mere university education and examination. He congratulated his fellow-students on the opportunity it placed before them of preparing for a career of usefulness to their fellow-men, which would be to the glory of God.

“The Presbyterian Church in the colonies was happily free from those divisions which were suffered by various churches of Scotland. Yet he would qualify this allusion to internecine strife at home by observing how, in the smaller communities of Scotland, the various subdivisions of the great national Church were now tending to work unitedly and with mutual reciprocity. He should remember his visit to Ormond College as one of the most graphic and profitable recollections of his Australian tour.”

The Earl said it had been a peculiar satisfaction and pleasure to him to meet Mr. Ormond and so many other representative and leading men, who were first and foremost in the educational work of the Colony. He captivated the hearts of the students and others by his words of polished eloquence and by the words of genial affection and practical wisdom in which he replied to their addresses.

Mr. Ormond recounted his reminiscences in England and Scotland of Lord Aberdeen, with whom he had been associated on public platforms. The mantle of Lord Shaftesbury's humanitarianism had fallen on the Earl, and, while in Edinburgh, Mr. Ormond said “he had been made familiar with the devotion of the Countess of Aberdeen to works of mercy and Christian

charity. As one identified with the past history of this great Colony, deeply interested in the present, and wrapt up in the future of it, he wished to give Lady Aberdeen and his Lordship a hearty welcome to the Colony and to that institution. He had an opportunity of meeting his Lordship in 1880, of being on the same platform with him in London, he having been told that 'young Lord Shaftesbury' was to speak. He also had the pleasure of meeting and hearing his Lordship at the General Assemblies of the Presbyterian Churches of Scotland, and of going with him from church to church throughout the whole section in Scotland, and of receiving the hospitality of Lady Aberdeen at Haddo House. . . . It showed that Lady Aberdeen possessed great courage to leave her attachments and connections in the old country to visit this new land; but he was sure their visit would be of great advantage to themselves, to the old world, to the colonies and to the whole of the British Empire.

"On his recent visit to Europe he found that Australia was esteemed very differently from what it was formerly, not only amongst British people, but amongst continental peoples. When he arrived in Italy that country was in a state of ferment about the British in the Soudan. They had heard about Indians and Sepoys, but they knew very little about Australia and its power to assist the mother country. The Australian Contingent, however, opened their eyes, and after Australia's offer of help to Britain he noticed that this continent was very much and very highly spoken about amongst the Italians, French, and Germans.

Very much attention was shown them all over Europe when 'Australia' was marked upon their boxes. Thirty-five years ago, on his first visit to England, Australians were looked upon with suspicion. It was not so now ; and it was very gratifying, moreover, to find that Australia was looked upon as part of the British Empire. They knew Lady Aberdeen and his Lordship took a great interest, and always had taken a great interest, in such institutions as the one they were in, and it was a matter of everyday history that her Ladyship took a great interest in all good works."

## CHAPTER XXXI

### DR. CAMERON LEES ; PRESENTATION OF PAINTING OF MR. ORMOND TO THE COLLEGE

DR. CAMERON LEES, an able minister of the Scottish Church, who was on a visit to Melbourne, in temporary charge of the Scots Church pulpit, was invited by the Council to make an official visit to Ormond College ; and on July 6, 1887, a large company of ladies and gentlemen assembled and gave him a very cordial and gratifying reception.

Mr. McFarland, the Master of Ormond, in expressing gratification at the visit of Dr. Lees, briefly reviewed the history of the College, which was a great adjunct to the University, as was very generally recognised, inasmuch as the University gave instruction only in classes, but at the College it was tutorial as well. The classes were held early in the morning and in the evening, so as not to clash with the lectures at the University, and it could be said that in this, as in many other features, the College teaching met a want that had been long felt in the community. They had now upwards of ninety students ; and of the eleven exhibitions which were annually at the disposal of the University, eight of them were last year carried off by students of Ormond College.

The Rev. Professor Macdonald, on behalf of the Theological Hall in connection with the College, expressed his gratification at meeting Dr. Lees within their class-rooms.

Dr. Lees, in acknowledging the cordiality of his welcome, said: ". . . The social system developed individuality: it taught the student to be more self-reliant: it led a man to self-control, and in Scotland now there was a feeling growing that more should be done for the social culture of those attending the universities, and an effort was at present being made to bring the students more together by the establishment of what were called university unions. The difficulty which was experienced at home had been solved here in Ormond and other such Colleges. With regard to the Theological Hall, he looked to it to do greater things in the future than it had done in the past, and he trusted it would develop more and more. He ought to be the last person to say anything against imported clergymen, but he would say that the Church in Victoria would never be in a right position until it could rear a ministry for itself. In order that the Theological Hall might discharge its duty he quite saw that it was necessary that it should be more largely equipped.

"Before he sat down he would like to say a word or two to the students whom he saw at the lower end of the hall. They reminded him of his own college days, and of how much he had lost by not being as diligent as he might have been. He would tell them that now was their opportunity to build up their

characters : it was now that they had life clear before them. He knew a professor who had an album which contained what he called 'Addled eggs.' Those were the portraits of young men who had left the college with all the indications of a bright and useful career, but had failed. He warned the students of this, and begged them to remember that, above all, they must ask for the saving power of Jesus Christ."

An adjournment was then made to the dining-hall, where there was hung a life-sized oil-painting of the Hon. Francis Ormond, the work of Mr. Dowling, which had been subscribed for by some of Mr. Ormond's friends to present to the College. It represents the founder, attired in walking costume, leaning on a pillar. The face is full, and the artist has succeeded in producing a striking likeness : the attitude is graceful and the surroundings leave nothing to be desired. In the background there is a view of the College which Mr. Ormond erected. The whole picture is a fine example of the portrait-painter's art. To that painting will be turned the eyes of after generations who will no doubt scan with admiring interest the lineaments of the wisest and most generous of Australia's philanthropists.

Sir James MacBain explained how it was that the picture had been obtained. He said "it would remain as a memorial of the admirable work done by Mr. Ormond in the interests of education. He had taken, with others, great interest in the College, but Mr. Ormond had done the lion's share of the work, and they were indebted to him not only as a Church,

but as a community. Mr. Ormond had great cause to thank God for the result of his labours ; he had done a work which would carry his name down to posterity. On behalf of the subscribers he had great pleasure in handing over the portrait to the Council of the College." Dr. Morrison returned thanks for the gift.

Mr. Ormond, in replying, was deeply moved. After referring to the success of the institution, he said he would like to see Dr. Morrison's portrait in the room, and that of Sir James MacBain in the Theological Hall. Along with that, he would like to see the portrait of one whose labours for the Church had been very great, who had done far more for religion than he could then tell—he meant the Hon. James Balfour, M.L.C.

Mr. Balfour, with his strong personality, robust Christian character, and sound evangelicalism, has been, down all his history to the present day, a tower of strength and a sagacious counsellor to our Church ; and, beyond that, he is one of our most trusted leaders in every movement for the evangelising and uplifting of our race.

## CHAPTER XXXII

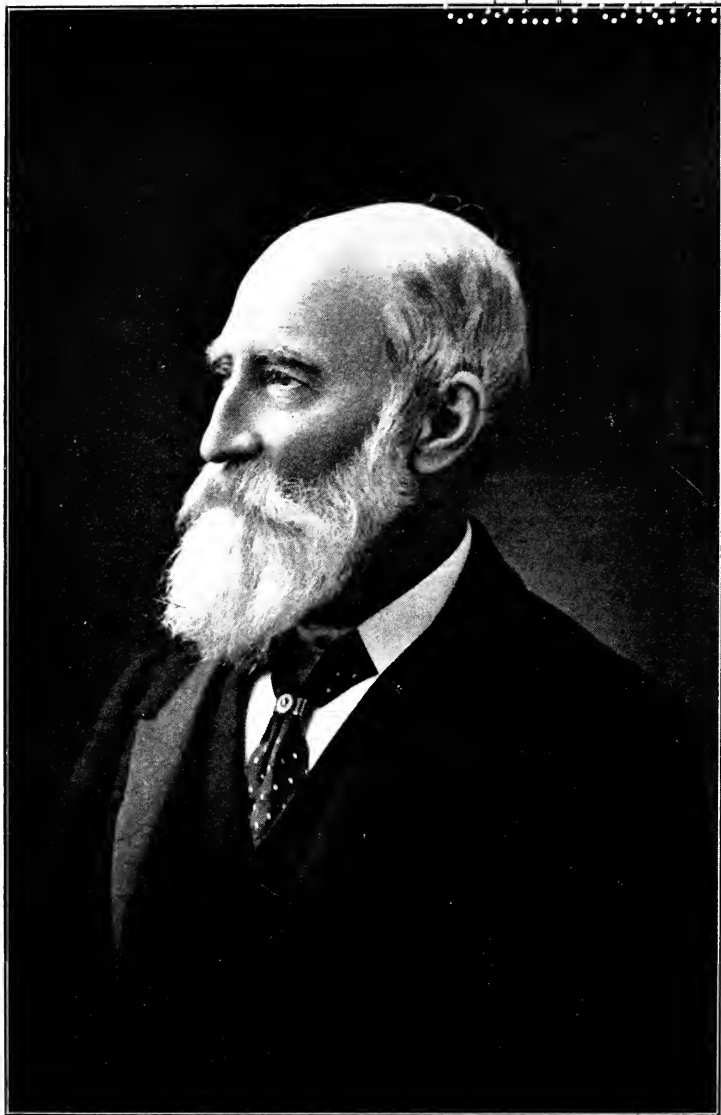
### CENTENNIAL EXHIBITION ; THE TECHNICAL COLLEGES ; SOCIAL REUNIONS

To mark the close of the first century of our Australian history, it was decided by the Government to hold, in 1888, a Centennial Exhibition in Melbourne, in order to present to the eye the vast industrial progress which the Australian colonies have made since the first settlement took place at Sydney, under Captain Phillip, in the year 1788.

That Exhibition was designed to be to the world a stupendous disproof of the correctness of the forecast of the Lieutenant-Governor, Major Ross, who wrote under date July 10, 1788, to Mr. Nepean, the Under-Secretary of State : " I will, in confidence, venture to assure you that this country will never answer to settle in, for though I think corn will grow here, yet I am convinced that if ever it is able to maintain the people sent here, it cannot be in less time than, perhaps, one hundred years hence. I therefore think it will be cheaper to feed convicts on turtles and venison at the London Tower than be at the expense of sending men here."

The Exhibition was therefore designed to give an impressive display of the capabilities and resources of





THE HON. JAMES BALFOUR, M.L.C.



the country, and of the marvellous progress made on all lines of industrial activity during the period covered by our history ; and as it was a valuable educational object-lesson which the Government had in view, quite naturally and fittingly Mr. Ormond was appointed one of the commissioners to whom the duty was entrusted, to accomplish that purpose in the most effective way. Though he had burdens enough to bear in carrying to a successful issue his own great schemes for the public welfare, yet he cheerfully undertook the duties of this new office and performed them, as his diary testifies, in no lukewarm and perfunctory spirit.

The founder of the Working Men's College in Melbourne contemplated the establishment of similar institutions in the larger centres of population in the Colony, and it was with peculiar satisfaction that he saw a movement initiated to provide a Technical School for Geelong. It was his earnest desire that in every town of importance facilities should be offered for improving the material condition of the artisan. Many, he knew, would turn indifferently away from all opportunities that might offer for self-improvement, and the social elevation that would be sure to follow. The allurements to the open life which our climate offers, the amusements which with distracting variety and frequency are always appealing to us, would countervail to many the advantages offered by intellectual culture. But there are always some in every community who feel the throbbings of a noble ambition within them to break strong fetters

that bind them, overleap high barriers that hold them back, and press their way up to the conscious possession of a fuller and richer life with boundless possibilities of power and usefulness which may affect beneficially their fellow-men. Our own Australian history, brief as it is, records the heroic doings of men who rose by dint of resolute toil and self-abnegation to a place of influence and exalted station in the land.

Towards the close of 1887, Mr. Ormond accompanied Sir Henry Loch, the Governor, to Geelong, and was present at the opening of the Juvenile Exhibition, which many of our young people felt to be specially attractive. It served to stimulate their energies and awaken in them laudable ambitions by interesting them in various branches of profitable work which it was not beyond the power of their own hands to do.

During their stay at Borriyalloak, Mr. and Mrs. Ormond, with kindly thought for the enjoyment of the young people, provided an entertainment, which was the precursor of the annual picnic, with its accompanying sports, now an established and popular feature of the social life at Skipton. On December 22, 1887, the children of the district, with many of their parents and friends, mustered in large force in the Recreation Ground, and were abundantly regaled with good things. The large assemblage expressed their grateful acknowledgment of the donors' kindness by repeated and enthusiastic cheers for Mr. and Mrs. Ormond: and, in responding, Mr. Ormond sought to impress on the young people the value of diligence in study, reminding them of the powerful incentives and

helps to it which the age affords, and the brilliant rewards which lie within easy reach of every aspirant for honour and fame.

At Borriyalloak Mr. Ormond spent Christmas ; and the following day he drove on to Wooriwyrite, where he was the guest of Mr. Thomas Shaw, one of the most genial pioneers of the West, the best type of a successful colonist : a man whom we all learned to love, in whom his neighbours placed implicit confidence, and who never, so far as I know, resisted an honest appeal for help. His later years were filled up with beneficent work for other people, giving them the benefit of his large experience and practical knowledge of stock, guiding by his counsel the younger men, and training them for the prudent and profitable management of the broad acres which their fathers by daring and toil had acquired, and by shrewdness and thrift had extended and improved.

On January 1, 1888, Messrs. Ormond and Campbell Finlay of Glenormiston dined at Keilambete, to celebrate the eightieth anniversary of the birth of Mr. John Thomson. It was a memorable meeting of three notable pioneers, two of whom have cut their names deeply in the history of our Church and left behind them memorials which will never perish, but keep their names fresh down all the ages. Mr. Finlay, who belonged to a good Scottish family, had infirm health, and was not much known beyond the select circle of his own immediate friends. Soon after that meeting at Keilambete he sold his station to Mr. Niel Black, and returned to the Homeland.

## CHAPTER XXXIII.

### A UNIQUE GATHERING OF EDUCATIONAL NOTABILITIES; PRESENTATIONS AND COURTESIES

MR. ORMOND entertained, in the Athenæum Hall, on March 20, 1888, a large and distinguished company, representative of the educational institutions of the city—a company described by Sir James MacBain, during the course of his speech, as “unique, and the only one of its kind he could so call.”

The Hon. Duncan Gillies, Premier of Victoria, in responding to the toast of Her Majesty's Ministers, said: “Mr. Francis Ormond had done a grand work for the Colony in the establishment of a great educational institution, which, in the success it had achieved during the short period it had been in existence, was unsurpassed in any other part of the world. The Government and Parliament had been asked to join in aiding in the development of that institution, and it was now a fitting subject of congratulation that its progress had been so much greater than had been anticipated. During the past twelve months the Working Men's College had had about 1,300 students, which was a result that was perfectly marvellous. The students paid for their own education, and that fact enabled them to rejoice the more heartily at its

success, and to anticipate for it greater achievements in the future. . . .”

Chief Justice Higinbotham, in proposing the toast of the Working Men's College, said: “A few days ago when he received the invitation he was affected with a feeling of compunction. He had recently read the report of the proceedings of the Working Men's College during the past half-year, and he confessed that he was influenced by a sensation of astonishment more than pleasure, followed by a painful sense of a want of sympathy and hope entertained by him in the institution for some years past. Six years ago he heard of the proposal for the establishment of a college for the promotion of general education and technical training. Their host then, with great liberality and a grand ambition, started the idea of a Working Men's College, the idea being suggested by the example of the Working Men's College in London founded in 1850 by Frederick Denison Maurice.

“He was greatly charmed by the idea, as he knew something of that saintly philosopher. It seemed that the principles of his system would be peculiarly applicable for bringing into use for the working men of this Colony. There were two great principles at the foundation of that institution, namely, that working men should have supreme and exclusive control; and secondly, that the choice of subjects would be absolutely unrestricted and free. He was aware that some of the subjects were not of a character usually of sufficient interest to secure application, but in the institution he referred to, the working men had evinced

a deep interest in them. For instance, the study of theology secured one of the largest classes in Mr. Maurice's college, and that worthy man had, in writing to a friend, expressed his pleasure thereat, and said that if the working men only derived half the advantage that he did through their association, they would have done well indeed. He mentioned all this as a preface to a confession. He had understood that the College would be started on the lines of the London college; but those lines were not followed, and for that reason he ceased to take an active interest in it, and he certainly did not entertain hopes of its success.

“However, through the efforts of Mr. Ormond and others splendid results had been achieved, and he would like to quote a few facts from the report just published. The College was opened in June last, when the number of students was 361, and the number of subjects seven. That was a good beginning, but during the short three months of that term the number of students nearly doubled, and the subjects were increased. At the end of the term there were between six and seven hundred students and seventeen subjects. The same rapid increase was noticeable in the second term, when the number of students was nine hundred, and now at the commencement of the present term they had no fewer than thirteen hundred students. By the attainment of such results the president had secured for himself the real confidence of the working men of Victoria. It also proved that those who had been associated with him on the Council had ably seconded his efforts,



and that there had been a wise selection of instructors. The testimony of the instructors as to the exemplary behaviour of the classes was also highly satisfactory. It had been shown that students had not only availed themselves of voluntary instruction, but had paid fees.

“ He would like to suggest that, as the College was now one of the educational institutions of the Colony, it should be represented in the educational court which the Minister of Education had determined to have in the forthcoming Centennial Exhibition. There was no doubt that visitors would ask questions respecting our institutions and the condition of the working classes of the Colony. Respecting the latter question, it could be shown that the labour of Victoria was associated and organised with a completeness which had not been attained in any other country. It was represented by a central parliament or council, there being fifty trades organisations, representing ten thousand men. Those who regarded such organisations with apprehension should bear in mind that a large number of the young men were availing themselves of the opportunity of improving themselves both as tradesmen and citizens. They did not confine themselves to purely technical education, but went into the higher branches, such as mathematics, foreign languages, and music : in fact, the College was about to attain the results for which the motion had been carried in the Town Hall in 1882, namely, to be an institution imparting general as well as technical knowledge.

“The Working Men’s College might assist in the cause of reform in higher institutions of learning. Take, for instance, the teaching of languages. He deplored the unnatural methods adopted in that department of teaching, as students should first be taught the meaning of words before studying the intricacies of grammar. They might feel sure that the young working men would insist upon the adoption of a more rational and practical system, and if they brought about an improvement, that would be a precedent for the higher institutions to follow. He did not think we were far off the time when our teachers would be taught the art of teaching, which was a matter of very great importance. The College had been founded in wisdom, sustained by untiring beneficence, and would, it was hoped, yield the happiest results to the Colony. Much was due to Mr. Ormond, who first suggested the scheme, and also to those who had assisted the institution, and to the Government for its subsidy. Much also was due to the wisdom of the Council of the College in their selection of instructors.”

“The institution,” Mr. Ormond said in reply, “in which he was so deeply interested, he was proud to say, was a success. It was a success owing to a number of causes. To the wise and judicious management of the Council was largely due the success it had obtained, and to the earnestness of the students who were attending the classes. He was exceedingly proud of the institution, and he was proud of the Council, of the instructors, of the students: he was proud of the College because it was filling a place in the education

link without interfering with any other institution. He had found, as an employer, that, all things equal, a man who was educated was better than an uneducated man. Forty years ago he had on his station a very superior man, a very capable man, a man who he thought would make a good overseer, but he lacked education. He could read, but read indifferently; write he could not. He had as overseer to keep a store, to give out stores, but he had a way of making a peculiar mark for a pound of tobacco, and another peculiar mark for a pair of moleskin trousers. They would see that it was selfishness that attracted his attention to the education of the man, because he saw he would be a very useful man to him, if he could only write. He took this man under his charge, and gave him a course of writing, and at the end of twelve months he was able to write. He was a good man without education, but an infinitely better man with education.

“At the same time he took in some young lads who were on the station, and were running like the blacks, shock-headed and perfectly wild. He gave them nightly instruction for three years until the discovery of gold, when everything became disorganised. These boys, with only the small amount of education which they received from him, were able to take good positions afterwards, one holding a Government situation in Queensland.

“In the year 1867 universal suffrage was granted, and some one said to him, ‘We will be all ruined. Tom, Dick, and Harry have some power in the State;

they can do what they like.' He remembered remarking that it was a serious matter, and that he would like to see the men educated, but that they would have to accept the position. Men in those times were not educated—not more than six out of eighteen would be able to sign their names. Things were very different now. He remarked to the gentleman who had spoken to him, 'Educate, educate, educate them up to the power in the community which they have got,' and from that idea he had striven to educate the people at large. There was always a fear of the uneducated being led away by the demagogue. Indeed, the uneducated man was bread-and-butter to the demagogue.

"He was proud to say that on visiting the various countries of Europe he found the education of this Colony stood as high as that of any country he had visited. In technical education he felt that in comparison with the residents of Germany and Switzerland we Britishers were far behind. The Frenchman had a far better technical knowledge than the English workman, and instead of making a dozen chips at a stone, achieved what he wanted with one or two strokes. It was in 1878 that attention had been drawn to technical education in Great Britain, when the Government voted £4,000 for aiding instruction in science and art, and since then technical education had rapidly spread."

Mr. F. H. Bromley, on behalf of the Working Men's College Council, presented Mr. Ormond with a handsome framework containing the portraits of the

members of the Council who were in existence at the time of the opening of the institution ; and in acknowledging the gift, Mr. Ormond made a presentation to Mr. Joseph Nixon, in recognition of the services which he had rendered as honorary secretary of the College Council.

Every speech that was made at that meeting rang with eulogies on the work of the College, which always elicited loud applause. It was without doubt an hour of triumph to the beneficent founder—an exceptionally high testimony to his practical wisdom and perspicacity, as well as to his heroic courage, and his unfaltering faith in the feasibility and public utility of his scheme. From afar he saw the great national results which the College would yield, and in face of captious opposition, and cavillings, and defections of friends, he gallantly fought his way to the goal on which his heart was so resolutely set.

Mr. Ormond, at a meeting of the Council of the Working Men's College held on July 31, 1888, welcomed Mr. Grant, president of the Kingston College, Canada, who had long been engaged and interested in educational work. Mr. Grant said "nothing that he had seen during the course of his visit here had interested him more than the Working Men's College, which aimed at educating the whole people, not merely a class."

Mr. W. M. K. Vale was one who, from the inception of the movement, had discerned the advantages which would accrue to the working class from the establishment of a technical college, and he had laboured in

many ways to promote it, and to commend it to public notice and support. In consequence of the state of his health, Mr. Vale had been compelled to relinquish his work in connection with the College, in order to make a visit to Britain. On his return to the Colony, he received a hospitable and graceful welcome from Mr. Ormond, who invited a number of gentlemen interested in education to meet him in the commissioners' dining-room in the Exhibition building. The success of the Working Men's College, it was then announced, was not only fully assured, but had exceeded the most sanguine expectations. The number of students in attendance had increased term after term until it stood at 2,200—a success, compared with the population, that had not been surpassed in any part of the world.

## CHAPTER XXXIV

### FAILING HEALTH ; PLACING THE COMMEMORATION STONE OF THE VICTORIA WING

THE Centennial Exhibition was opened on August 1, 1888, with ceremonial of an imposing and impressive character, in which the Governors and leading men of our own and the neighbouring colonies occupied a conspicuous place. The stately pageantry of the occasion was witnessed by a vast crowd said to exceed 200,000 persons. Mr. Ormond, as one of the commissioners, had certain duties assigned to him to perform in connection with the great function. His increasing labours, mainly in the public interest, had, to some extent, impaired his health ; a severe cold which greatly hampered him now fastened on him and was "believed to be the beginning of the ailment from which he died."

But in spite of the discomfort of a harassing cough he continued to do what he believed to be his duty at the cost of great personal inconvenience. He had assisted to build a little church at Culcairn in the neighbourhood of his Kirndeene estate, and it was about to be opened. He was very busy : his state of

health was not satisfactory : most men in the circumstances would probably have declined to face the early start and the long railway journey involved, to be present at the formal opening of a little country church. But he was present, to the surprise of some, spoke fitting words of congratulation on the occasion, and remained to the close of the meeting to show his interest in the cause. It was in that spirit that he performed all his public duties, whether in Parliament, or on the Education Commission, or Exhibition Commission—there was an unfaltering devotion always in evidence in the performance of the work which was laid upon him to do.

The ceremony of placing a stone to commemorate the erection of the Victoria wing of Ormond College was performed on December 14, 1888, by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Loch. The interesting event was witnessed by a large and distinguished gathering of collegiate magnates, and a number of ladies and gentlemen interested in the stately pile of buildings with which Mr. Ormond's name will always be associated. The proceedings opened with devotional exercises conducted by the very Rev. Daniel McKenzie, Moderator of the General Assembly, and Rev. Dr. Campbell, Convener of the Theological Hall Committee. The company thereafter proceeded to the new Victoria wing, and His Excellency performed the ceremonial office, declaring to be "well and truly placed" the stone, which bears the following inscription :



# PLACING THE COMMEMORATION STONE 191

IN HONOREM

VICTORIAE R.

PER L ANNOS OPTIME DE CIVIBVS IAM MERITAE

NOMEN EIVSDEM PIENTISSIME REFBRENTES

HAS AEDES EXSTRVENDAS CVRAVIT

FRANCISCVS ORMOND, ARMR.

PERFECTI OPERIS MONVMENTVM

HVNC LAPIDEM POSVIT

HENRICVS BROVGHAM LOCH EQ. BAL.

HVIVS COLONIAE PRAESES

DIE XIV DEC. M.D.CCCLXXXVIII.

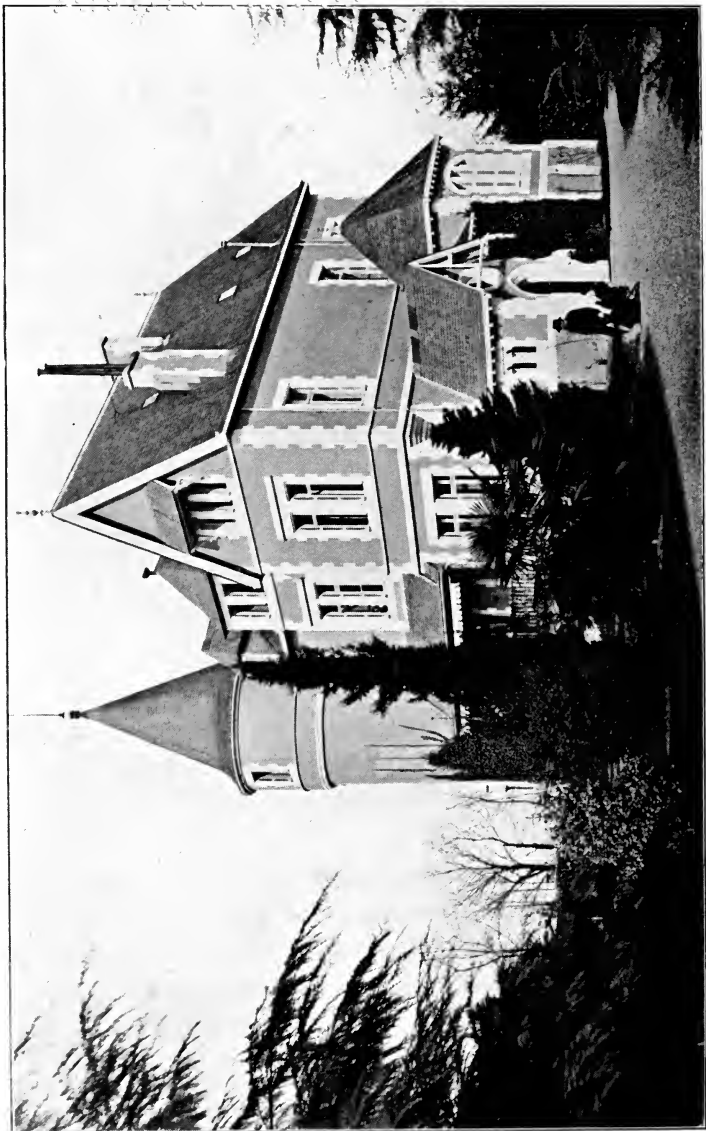
Refreshments were served in the College Hall. Sir James MacBain presided at the function, and speeches were delivered appropriate to the importance of the occasion. Sir Henry Loch in proposing "The Founder, and Success to the College, coupled with the name of Mrs. Ormond," referred to the magnificent generosity of Mr. Ormond. "It is very seldom," he said, "that we find, however wealthy a man may be, that he has any inclination to give money during his life-time. It is frequently said when a man gives large sums of money in his life-time, he can well afford it. But that is a mistake. Great self-denial is called for, and it is only self-denial on his part that enables him to come forward in this manner to do good to the Colony. I know I am speaking the sense of all present when I say that we all feel that the Colony and the public at large owe a deep debt of gratitude to Mr. Ormond for the manner in which he has aided its institutions. . . ."

Mr. Ormond, in replying, said: ". . . We must

maintain the standard of our colleges by high-class teaching, and that can't be got without paying high prices to our teaching staff. I remember from London to Scotland there were three lines of railway all competing and all doing well. They did not compete by lowering the standard of fares, but by providing the best accommodation for travellers. It is only by providing high-class teaching staffs that this can be done. Hitherto the teachers have done their share to maintain the credit of their institutions. . . ."

The latest extension of the building, which was completed in December 1888, was, when the following term opened, filled with students, and the cost of the erection raised the sum contributed by Mr. Ormond to the building fund of the College alone to upwards of £40,000 ; and "Ormond College," the press of the period reported, "stands to-day not only as the noblest monument of his enlightened generosity, but as the most imposing and one of the most flourishing of the educational establishments in Victoria."

# Day of Calibration



LARA, PAU.

## CHAPTER XXXV

### RETURN TO PAU, AND CLOSING SCENES

ON December 28, 1888, Mr. and Mrs. Ormond left Egoleen, their home at Toorak, and embarked on the s.s. *Paramatta* for Marseilles. The state of Mr. Ormond's health filled the hearts of his friends with grave apprehensions, but it was hoped that the absolute rest and the bracing air of the sea would contribute to his restoration, and to the invigoration of his enfeebled vital forces. The voyage, however, was marked by incidents and tragedies of a somewhat startling, impressive, and depressing kind. When the ship was off Albany a Lascar died. Later on, a Swedish Count jumped overboard and was drowned. After leaving Colombo, the third engineer, who was ill and delirious, pressed himself through the port-window of his cabin, and plunged into the sea. And, before the vessel arrived at Brindisi, one of the first-class passengers, who had been in delicate health, died, and his remains, with fitting obsequies, were committed to the deep—an event that always shrouds with gloom the little world of a ship at sea. That was a list of fatalities sufficiently distressing to all, and depressing to those who were ill on board.

Mr. and Mrs. Ormond landed at Marseilles on February 5, 1889. All the way from Aden they had encountered stormy weather and heavy seas. Pausing for a night at the coast town, they pushed on next day to Pau, where Mr. Ormond arrived in a weak and exhausted state, suffering much from a troublesome cough. On Sabbath (10th) he attended Divine Service: and, on the evening of the following day, presided at the annual meeting of the British and Foreign Bible Society, which was the last public duty he performed.

The closing entry in his diary was made on February 15—all the records from his arrival up to that date referring to the cold, showery weather which prevailed, and to the persistent cough from which he suffered. On February 17 he remained in the house the greater part of the day. He was now very weak: the wasting of his strength was going steadily on. Tempted out of doors by the genial weather and the fair aspect which nature wears sometimes on the sunny slopes of the Pyrenees, he took a short walk after lunch, but it made too heavy a demand on his wasted powers: he nearly fainted on his return. From that date he steadily declined. On the 26th his condition caused the greatest anxiety to his loved one who ministered so unremittingly to him, but on March 7 he rallied and was able to take short carriage drives. But that was only a flickering of the vital flame. He was now unable to walk even with assistance, and required to be carried downstairs when it was possible for him to take a short drive.

There, as he lay in feeble health in his home at Pau, the report of the meeting held in the Town Hall, Melbourne, in February 1889,\* for the distribution of prizes to the successful students of the Working Men's College, reached him. He was unable to read it, but he was greatly interested in hearing it read, and rejoiced in the growing popularity and increasing usefulness of an institution which owed so much to his own munificence and indomitable energy. In its phenomenal success he saw evidence enough that he had not misinterpreted the needs of the age, and that the want it supplied was a very real and even urgent one. We can well enough imagine how his eye brightened and his interest quickened when he grasped the full meaning of that report, and the splendid augury for the future which it undoubtedly conveyed.

On April 11 his mind became slightly affected at intervals, but on the whole it was quite clear. On the 30th he was able to take a short drive, and continued to do so till just the day before the end. Up to this time Mrs. Ormond and Mrs. Foster † had been in constant attendance upon him, but now the services of a trained nurse were secured.

As he lay there, the sands of time sinking fast, his thoughts winged their way across the seas back to the old land of his happy youth and strenuous manhood, the land of his toils and struggles and splendid successes—the land and the people that he loved, where he had founded great institutions, smoothed pathways for many souls, opened gateways of knowledge

\* See Chapter XXXVII. † One of his adopted daughters.

through which toilers may pass into higher ranks, win moral and intellectual triumphs, and qualify for highest offices in Church and State. As thoughts like these filled his mind, and thronging memories of Australian glories passed before him, there fell from his lips the pathetic plaint, "It is a sad thing to die away from one's own country and away from one's own people." The promise was then given to him that his remains should be interred beside those of his kindred in the cemetery at Geelong. He now rapidly sank and passed away at midnight on May 5, 1889.



## CHAPTER XXXVI

### A WISE AND BROAD-MINDED PHILANTHROPIST

MR. ORMOND was a handsome man of distinguished personal appearance, with a good head and a finely chiselled face. In the prime of his manhood he possessed great strength and a remarkably good physique. He had a fine touch of modesty, from which his manner took a sort of aloofness that was accounted by some who had no intimate knowledge of him a haughty reserve. To many his personality was one of peculiar interest and attractiveness. There was recognised in him the true ring of the Christian life. No one could fail to know where he stood. He stood for righteousness and well-doing and the fear of God.

His claims on the public gratitude and esteem rest indestructibly on the generous and catholic spirit which animated him in the distribution of his wealth among objects of public utility. He was a true Presbyterian, soundly evangelical, but his sympathies were broad, bounded neither by class nor creed. It was as a Christian philanthropist of the noblest type, a true patriot, studious of the higher welfare of the people, an enlightened and generous friend of educa-

tion that he impressed himself on the public mind. He felt that he held his wealth in trust: that God had given it to him to be used in the best interests of his fellow-men.

While he gave his money cheerfully, he did not give it indiscriminately. His liberality was regulated by two well-defined principles. He directed the stream of his munificence to certain deliberately selected objects, and he gave on conditions calculated to secure the co-operation of others, to awaken in them the same generous feeling that actuated himself. That, in fact, was the distinctive characteristic of all his beneficences. "During a period of about twelve years," it was said, "he spent nearly £100,000 in subsidising educational and religious movements. His liberality stands without parallel in the history of the Colony, both in regard to its extent and the judicious manner in which it was usually bestowed."

While he was extremely liberal in his gifts, he was remarkably economical in his personal expenditure, and it was this that laid him open to the gibes of men of his own class, men of narrow and shrunken natures, who had no generous breadth of view, no gracious spirit of philanthropy, whose hearts were touched with no glow of a lofty patriotism that can make sacrifices that will contribute to the nation's progress and improve the material conditions that make for success. It was no doubt by the cultivation of that careful habit, that drew upon him the reproaches of some, that his money, instead of slipping away through unprofitable channels of self-indulgence and vain and

foolish parade, grew into the great fortune which he wisely turned to such good account.

There was another way in which Mr. Ormond approved himself to be a wise steward. It was not his custom to make donations and imagine that he had no responsibility beyond that—that he had done his duty on the financial side of it, and that the object of his beneficence might now be dismissed from his thoughts. Although he claimed no special control, or acted in any way as the patron of the great institutions which he founded, yet he continued to take a practical interest in their management, and devoted much time and thought to their organisation and development.

Here is the testimony of his pastor, the late Dr. Murdoch Macdonald, who had some intimacy of knowledge of Mr. Ormond's character: "During the nine years of my ministry at Toorak I found him a true yoke-fellow in the sacred office, a steady ally in trying circumstances, a generous and faithful friend. Mr. Ormond was not a perfect man. There were idiosyncrasies and peculiarities of temperament which may have marred the symmetry of his character, but from lengthened association with him, and close contact in one at least of those scenes of trial and sorrow in which the inner man is so often unconsciously revealed, I feel warranted in saying that Mr. Ormond clung with a personal faith, simple and earnest, to the living Saviour whom he lovingly acknowledged as his Master, and that he strove earnestly—it might be with effort and cost—to do the

right. He loved the ministrations of the sanctuary and warmly appreciated the preaching of the simple Gospel. There were times when he let the preacher know how much he felt what he heard."

The Rev. J. F. Ewing, who succeeded Dr. Macdonald as pastor of Toorak Church, said: "The life which has just closed, with what to most of us has been a startling suddenness, preaches—and will continue to preach to coming generations—the duty and the nobleness of giving. The community is mourning the death of its most munificent private benefactor. But in this congregation, where Mr. Ormond has ministered as an office-bearer for more than twelve years, and to which so many of his private friends belong, we mourn his loss in a special sense. The public prints have made you acquainted with the details of his great benefactions, and I do not wish to repeat what they have said so well. The loss to the community is all the greater that we know that our departed brother had by no means reached the limits of his generosity, and that if spared to a riper age he would have gone on adding to the proofs of his munificence.

"It is impossible to over-estimate the importance of the fact that at an early stage in the growth of this extraordinary city a man should have lived who gave away his means on such a princely scale, and set a high-tide mark for the generosity of our future philanthropists to aim at."

THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE.



THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE.



## CHAPTER XXXVII

### A WONDERFUL RECORD OF USEFULNESS

At a great meeting in the Town Hall, held in February 1889, prizes were presented to the successful students attending classes at the Working Men's College by His Excellency the Governor, Sir Henry Loch. Mr. F. A. Campbell, C.E., the Secretary, read the report, which was of a most gratifying nature. It stated that when the doors of the institution were flung open to the public, 646 students were enrolled and instruction given in twenty-three classes. So great was the pressure on the accommodation available, that the rooms could not hold the numbers that applied for admission: the classes had therefore to be divided into sections and taught at different times to meet the growing demand for knowledge. When the second term opened, 985 students were admitted and received instruction in thirty-seven classes.

Within twelve months of the opening of the College the number in attendance rose to 1,953 students, who received instruction in thirty-four classes. The following term it was impossible to find room for those who applied to be enrolled. The Council therefore, in order to meet the imperative requirements of the

institution, urged on the Government its claims for additional land, and the means of erecting and fitting up suitable buildings. These claims were promptly recognised, and large grants were made both for the maintenance of the College and for the increase of accommodation, to meet the demands that were made upon it.

Dr. Pearson, Minister of Education, in moving the adoption of the report, said "he felt very deep regret that Mr. Ormond, who above all others would have been delighted to be present to share the triumph of that evening, was not in the Colony. . . . It is very evident that an institution which twelve months after its initiation taught 1,950 students in thirty-four subjects, and turned away candidates from its doors for want of room, is one that has a great future before it, if its development is not checked by the want of necessary space and appliances."

The annual commencement and distribution of prizes took place in the Town Hall on March 11, 1890. Professor Kernot, president of the College, Dr. Pearson, Minister of Public Instruction, and other public men took part in the proceedings. His Excellency the Governor presented the prizes to successful students. The report of the Council referred to the lamented death of Mr. Ormond and paid a high tribute to his memory: it spoke of the increase both in the attendance of the students and in the widespread usefulness of the institution.

Professor Kernot explained that he had been deputed to bring before the meeting the propriety of erecting



a memorial to the memory of the late Hon. Francis Ormond, founder of the College, whose munificence had not been confined to the Working Men's College, but spread over many institutions. It was agreed by all classes that his noble generosity should be commemorated, the memorial to take the form of a statue in marble or bronze, erected in some prominent position—a memorial worthy of the man and of the people who raised it.

Mr. Alfred Deakin, in speaking to a resolution which he proposed, to erect such a memorial, referred to the enormous donations which Mr. Ormond made for the most part in the founding or support of educational institutions. "The Working Men's College stepped in where the State School ended. It raised the student from the mere mechanical artisan to the artistic artisan, and thus elevated him as a social being. It supplied the link wanting in the educational system of the Colony. The markets of the world belonged to the products of the most intelligent and artistic artisans. The College went far to bring technical education within the reach of all. There should be a due recognition of the magnificent gifts which Mr. Ormond had made to the Colony. He persisted in his determination to found the College in the midst of much discouragement, and he lived long enough—though he died too soon—to see the success of the institution into which he had put so much of his own life."

The average enrolment of students rose in 1890 to 2,178, and other subjects continued to be added to the

curriculum. The accommodation at the disposal of the Council was greatly increased during the year by the completion in July of the Bowen Street building, which was erected and fitted up at Government expense. The front of the Latrobe Street block was commenced in 1890, Mr. Ormond's bequest of £10,000 having enabled the Council to proceed with the much required addition. The first exhibition of work done by the students, which was held at the College, was opened by His Excellency the Governor in the presence of a large and representative assemblage of people, who were interested in the work and rapid progress of the institution, which in 1891 had 2,491 students in attendance at classes.

"Such phenomenal progress," one wrote, "had probably no parallel in the history of educational institutions in any land. It has proved to be one of the most useful, prominent, and outstandingly successful of our metropolitan institutions. It plainly points to the want which existed in Melbourne for such technical instruction as it supplies. Many of our busy workers could find no means of improving themselves in the leisure time at their command, when the hours of labour were past, until Mr. Ormond's philanthropic scheme for their welfare was thus happily realised. But now the means of uplifting themselves and passing into a higher social grade are within easy reach of all who list to use them."

## CHAPTER XXXVIII

### WIDESPREAD GRIEF AWAKENED BY THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF MR. ORMOND'S DEATH

THE announcement of Mr. Ormond's death awakened widespread sorrow in Victoria, for his name had become a household word by reason of his marvellous liberality and labours in the interests of the toiling classes. The Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church was in session when the cablegram arrived from Pau, and when its contents were read the members were deeply moved. It was as if the shadow of a great calamity had suddenly darkened their sky and stricken their hearts. The hush of a profound grief fell on Ormond College. All lectures and examinations fixed for the day were postponed out of respect for the memory of the generous founder. At a meeting of the University Senate a committee was appointed to frame a fitting minute expressive of its profound regret and sense of loss.

The following minute was unanimously agreed to by the Commission: "The Commission of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria having been informed by telegraph of the

death on 5th instant at Pau of the Hon. Francis Ormond, M.L.C., desire, while humbly acknowledging the hand of God, and bowing to His sovereign appointment, to place on record an expression of their sense of the great loss which the Church has sustained in the removal of their esteemed brother.

“ Mr. Ormond, who was a native of Aberdeenshire, came out to the Colony at an early age. From his youth he was engaged in pastoral pursuits, in which he had marked prosperity. A Presbyterian by birth, education, and personal choice, he interested himself from the first in the congregations of his Church, with which residence brought him into connection, and contributed to their support. On May 2, 1876, he was ordained an elder in the newly formed congregation at Toorak. Entering into the spirit of the office he identified himself more and more closely with the Church and her aims, and sought to do good as he had opportunity. Instead of hoarding up wealth he presented the example of a Christian gentleman distributing with generous hand, for purposes of philanthropy and religion, the abundance with which God had blessed him. One special line of beneficence he made peculiarly his own—the founding of institutions for the promotion of the higher education of the people. To him the Church is mainly indebted for the noble college in which she trains her students and to which she has gratefully attached his name. From 1880 he had spent £40,000 in rearing that edifice. The Working Men’s College is his creation. To its establishment and organisation

he devoted much time and thought as well as money. The remarkable growth and expansion of these institutions under his own eye yielded him intense satisfaction. The Chair of Music in the University testifies to his sympathy with art and culture.

"It was Mr. Ormond's delight to devise liberal things. The amount of his benefactions, including what he has made provision for giving, exceeds £100,000. Other Churches than the Presbyterian have shared in his princely munificence. While he gave with such large-hearted liberality, he lived a quiet unobtrusive life. He loved the courts of the sanctuary, and warmly appreciated the preaching of the simple Gospel of the Grace of God. Trusting in the Saviour he strove to do the right and make the world the better for his living in it.

"Warmly cherishing the memory of their departed brother, and blessing God for what He enabled him to do with the special gift entrusted to him, and for the example which he has set, the Commission would express their deep sympathy with the sorrowing widow and other relatives, and commend them to Him 'Who hath loved us and given us everlasting consolation and good hope through grace,' that He may comfort their hearts."

At a meeting of the Council of the Gordon Technical College held May 14, 1889, the Chairman drew attention to the loss to the College in the death of the Hon. F. Ormond. The deepest regret was felt by the Council in losing such a zealous advocate of the objects of Technical Education. A letter of

condolence was sent from the Council to the widow of the deceased gentleman.

At the meeting held on July 16, a letter was read from Mr. R. Gillespie stating that £1,000 was to be paid to the College Council under the will of the late Mr. Ormond.

It was resolved that a Memorial Tablet be placed over the door of the Large Hall in the College, as a token of respect to the late trustee—the inscription to read thus: “To the memory of the Hon. Francis Ormond, M.L.C., who, by his zealous and intelligent assistance, as well as by his liberal donations, contributed so largely to the successful founding of this College, this tablet is erected by the Council, 1889.”

The tablet was placed in position and unveiled by His Worship the Mayor, July 3, 1890.

These are only some of the minutes framed and records made on the occasion of that great loss which was accounted by many a truly national one. For never before in the history of our Colony did a man arise and pour gifts so royally upon both Church and State; and in none of all those who in lower measure have served their country did the grace of modesty shine out so lustrously as it did in him.

One of our own Australian statesmen said Mr. Ormond put “his own life” into one of the institutions which he founded. That might be said of them all. His donations of money were large, but along with these he gave the equally precious contributions of

carefully gathered knowledge, elaborated plans, unrelenting anxiety, and the unremitting application of all his powers, to secure that the institutions he promoted were soundly based, and put under such wise and efficient control as would commend them to the public, and ensure success. That, more than anything else, drained his vital force—he put “so much of his own life into his work.” It would seem as if he had taken the words of Emerson as the rule of his life: “Spend yourself on the work before you, well assured that the right performance of this hour’s duties will be the best preparation for the hours or ages that follow it.”

Then his sympathies were with the poorer classes. He wanted to uplift them by opening doors of knowledge to them, and disclosing to them alluring vistas, which reach away out illimitably into happier and more prosperous conditions of life than the average toiler knows. He saw many of the youth of our country spending the golden hours at the street corners, with no apparent aim before them, seduced into vacuity and idleness by the charm of the open life in these sunny lands. He no doubt felt like Robert Louis Stevenson that “an aim in life is the only fortune worth the finding, and it is not to be found in foreign lands, but in the heart itself,” and he sought in many ways and through diverse agencies to lead young people to press their way to higher levels in pursuit of some high ideal worthy of attainment.

Finally, the great philanthropies with which his

name is so closely associated came not from a dead, but from a living hand, that had a throbbing human heart behind it—a heart that felt a joy in giving, that had gracious experience of the truth “It is more blessed to give than to receive.”



## CHAPTER XXXIX

“ASHES TO ASHES: DUST TO DUST”

Life is but a little holding lent  
To do a mighty labour.

THESE were George Meredith's words, inscribed on the casket containing his ashes, recently interred in Dorking cemetery. They embody a truth which it is not given to all to discern—to fewer still to illustrate. Mr. Ormond had an earnest desire to benefit his fellow men. He laboured with strenuous effort to that end, and has left behind him educational monuments that will keep his name honoured and revered through all the course of our Australian history.

The public testified the respect in which he was held on the occasion of his funeral. It is seldom that all classes of the community unite to honour any man as Melbourne and Geelong honoured the late Mr. Ormond on Saturday, September 7, 1889—somewhat over four months after his death at Pau. The cities were moved, and presented on all sides signs of sympathy and mourning. The demonstration made was a very remarkable one. The long procession, which included the Premier, the clergy, merchants, professional men, and representatives of

the working classes, wending its way with solemn step through streets where thousands, rich and poor alike, stood bareheaded as it passed, was an impressive and memorable spectacle, which none who witnessed it will ever forget.

The great historic Scots Church in Collins Street was crowded, and on the assemblage there fell the deep solemn hush and awe which thoughts of death and eternity are fitted to inspire. The black drapings of pulpit and gallery, silver-lined though they were, spoke eloquently of the loss the community had sustained. There was mourning, but it was mourning with an undertone of triumph—a sense of loss, but a knowledge of gain in the glorious object-lesson presented to our nation of a strenuous life that had spent itself in labours and gifts of imperishable worth for the permanent enrichment of the people. All the Churches united to do honour to one who in his broad-minded sympathy had embraced them all, and in his open-handed beneficence had given them help. The Presbyterians were present in force. The Government was represented by two Ministers of the Crown ; both the President of the Legislative Council and the Speaker of the Assembly were there. The City Council, Hospital Committee, and those connected with the Trades' Hall were prominent, whilst the students of Ormond flitted up and down the aisles conducting the representatives of all these bodies to the seats set apart for them.

“For the widow,” the press of the period reports, “who occupied a seat immediately below the pulpit,

it was impossible not to feel the deepest sympathy. It was no doubt some solace to her to witness that national tribute to her late husband's worth, but the strain must have been a severe as well as a protracted one."

The service, which was brief and striking in its severe simplicity, was conducted by the Revs. R. Ewing, Drs. Bevan and Watsford, and Professor Macdonald, and closed with the familiar but ever-moving strains of the Dead March as the coffin, on which exquisite wreaths had been placed, was reverently borne from the church.

Outside, the scene was a most impressive one. The people gathered in silence to do honour to the remains of the great philanthropist. The hoods of the graduates gave a little colour to a procession otherwise as sombre as any which ever passed through Melbourne. From Scots Church to the railway station in Spencer Street the way was lined on either side. Men, women, and children paused for a while to honour one whose life was full of instructive teaching, whose citizenship was a loving benediction to his country. The students of the University, and others who had walked before the hearse, lined either side of the approach to the railway station, and stood with bared heads as the coffin was carried to the heavily draped carriage in which it was to be conveyed to Geelong. The train was a very long one. At Geelong railway station the procession, largely augmented by the members of the various local institutions, was re-formed. All Geelong was in the streets and every shop was closed as, to the

muffled tolling of the heavy bell, the cortège, a mile and a half in length, moved on to the picturesque cemetery on Corio Bay.

Here the Artillery Band played the Dead March, and the firemen in their bright uniforms stood in striking contrast to the general body of the mourners. Near the grave were the members of the St. George and Toorak choirs, who sang as the pall-bearers bore the coffin to its last resting-place. A vast crowd gathered about the vault in which lie the remains of the first Mrs. Ormond and other members of the family. The Rev. Dr. Campbell, pastor of the church in which Mr. Ormond worshipped in the earlier days, read a portion of Scripture.

Canon Goodman delivered the funeral oration. He told how it was at the special request of the widow that the Church of England was represented. The bishop, he said, would have been there: for, though he had not known Mr. Ormond for any great length of time, he had learned to revere and admire him. It was appropriate that they should be at Mr. Ormond's grave, for he had sought to bring the denominations together. As a member of the National Church of Scotland he had felt that there was much in the National Church of England with which he could sympathise. A true Christian and a firm Presbyterian, Mr. Ormond had been ready to help and sympathise with both Churches.

The Canon then proceeded to point out how it was a matter of course that a man of Mr. Ormond's mental power, energy, and Christian principle should amass

wealth, and to insist on the fact that he had ever regarded his wealth as a trust and had employed it in efforts to raise the community. Already those efforts had done much, but they were destined to do yet more for generations yet unborn.

The Canon referred in detail to the various services Mr. Ormond had rendered to the community. He gave the place of honour to Ormond College, with the work of which his connection with the sister college, Trinity, gave him special sympathy. The Canon, in referring to the Working Men's College, took occasion to dwell on the breadth of sympathy which distinguished the deceased: his benefactions were confined to no class: he did much for those who will be the teachers of the coming generation: he did no less for those who will be its toilers. To glance at the faces of those gathered about the grave was to realise the full force of this. "There was the ambitious student to whom he had made that collegiate life, on which the Canon dwelt so lovingly, possible, and at his side was the artisan who, thanks to the same generous benefactor, may raise his handicraft to the dignity of an art."

He then touched on the Chair of Music. Music was precious, for it came into the home and might be made the handmaid of religion. With deep feeling the speaker paid his tribute to that catholicity which had led Mr. Ormond to contribute £5,000 to the Cathedral Building Fund, by his action stimulating many Anglicans to increased liberality. "He concluded," the newspaper report says, "with an eloquent peroration, in which he thanked heaven for colonists of such

a stamp and expressed a hope that Victoria might have many Francis Ormonds to expend their wealth wisely and freely for the glory of God, and the elevation of their fellows.

The Rev. Daniel McKenzie, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church of Victoria, offered prayer, his petitions, like those offered in Scots Church, being accompanied by expressions of devoutest gratitude to God for His great gift of Mr. Ormond to our Church and nation. The coffin was then lowered into the vault, surmounted by a profusion of beautiful wreaths: and from the united choirs there rang out in sweet melody the words of the hymn:

Now the labourer's task is o'er,  
Now the battle day is past;  
Now upon the farther shore  
Lands the voyager at last.  
Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

"Earth to earth, and dust to dust,"  
Calmly now the words we say:  
Left behind we wait in trust  
For the Resurrection day.  
Father, in Thy gracious keeping  
Leave we now Thy servant sleeping.

## CHAPTER XL

### STATUE IN BRONZE ERECTED: UNVEILED BY THE GOVERNOR

THE attendance at classes in the Working Men's College continued to increase until, in 1891, the large number of 2,400 students were enrolled. In order to direct public attention to the advantages offered by the institution, an exhibition of work done within its walls was held at the College, and opened by His Excellency the Governor, in presence of a large representative gathering of people. The exhibits attracted much attention and afforded tangible proof of the efficiency of the students and of the value of the work that passed through their hands.

But early in 1893, owing to disastrous industrial struggles and financial panic, which seriously disturbed economic conditions, the Council, taking too pessimistic a view of the situation, suddenly arrested progress by the suspension of the work of the College. Its career had been one of pronounced and splendid success: a note of triumph had been always sounded at its anniversary functions. Nearly six years of active and useful work had been performed on the lines of the beneficent intentions of the founder; and

now, to the surprise and dismay of many, the announcement was made that its doors were closed. A great multitude were eager to attend its classes, and they regarded it as nothing short of a calamity, an extinguishment of their dearest hopes, that the cessation of these was publicly notified.

The dark days that had fallen on the Colony had forced on the Government a policy of retrenchment, which was rigorously applied to every department of State. The Working Men's College had been brought under the control of the Minister of Education, and, by the new regulations issued by his department, it was provided that the subsidy should in future be apportioned, in part by payments on the results of examinations, and in part by a capitation grant on attendances. The grant now, instead of £5,000, would be about £2,155.

To both these provisions the Council of the College were from the first strongly opposed, and were driven to take the drastic step of closing the institution, on the plea that it was financially impossible to carry on the work with any efficiency under the new scheme. Considerable public interest was awakened, and the situation deplored by many who were personally concerned in the decision arrived at.

But with a view to serve the public interest, the Council arranged to hold a conference with the instructors touching their willingness to accept temporarily such reduced and precarious salaries as the straitened circumstances of the institution would warrant. The teaching staff withdrew, and,



after a free and full discussion of the question, replied with a magnanimous and loyal spirit, that they were unanimously of opinion that, in the circumstances, and in order to prevent so valuable an institution from being finally closed, they were prepared to make the sacrifices of principle and of remuneration involved in their acceptance of the conditions proposed, and were also quite disposed to co-operate in a loyal and unselfish spirit with the Council in working the College for three months under the Government regulations. It was therefore announced in May 1893 that the usual classes would be resumed.

A movement for the erection of a National Memorial to Mr. Ormond, as a recognition of his munificent gifts to the cause of education, began in 1889; and Mr. Percival Ball was subsequently commanded to model the statue and have it cast in bronze,

Upwards of 1,000 persons assembled, on June 7, 1897, to witness the unveiling by His Excellency the Governor (Lord Brassey) of the statue of the philanthropic founder of the institution. "There were several orders of public benefactors," Professor Kernot said, addressing the great audience. "First, there was the man who at his death bequeathed a large sum of money to some good object. Next was the man, of a higher type, who gave away his money during his lifetime. But higher still was the benefactor who not only gave his money during his life, but assisted by his personal efforts the good works already in existence, pioneered good movements, and discovered new. The late Francis Ormond belonged to

all three classes. He maintained that of all the institutions which owed their existence to Mr. Ormond's gifts and deeds, the Working Men's College stood first. It was his pet scheme.

"In 1881 Mr. Ormond was the only man to see the necessity for this sort of institution. When the scheme was first propounded, a good deal of cold water was thrown upon it; and he himself would now do penance at the foot of the statue for the part he had taken amongst the lukewarm and the people of little faith. Mr. Ormond presided over the meetings of the College Council and showed a paternal care and interest in the small details of management and direction. He also travelled in Europe and elsewhere to find out how these institutions were carried on, and, in fact, made it the work of his life to found a new kind of education for the youth of the Colony. He succeeded beyond his greatest expectations, and the two magnificent buildings standing before them, and the thousands of students who passed through them, were amongst the most wonderful things in the history of Victoria."

Mr. E. Findley, President of the Trades' Hall Council, said that "the statue and the two magnificent buildings standing before their eyes would be a lasting memorial of one of the most philanthropic and large-hearted men Victoria had yet known. Mr. Ormond's wealth had been utilised in obedience to Christian teaching and for the service of humanity. As president of the Trades' Hall Council, it gave him extreme pleasure to be there to say a few words

in honour of that great and glorious man. To give knowledge to working men was much better than the giving of coin."

Lord Brassey, after a brief address, unveiled the statue, which is about eight feet in height, and stands on a substantial pedestal of granite, bearing the simple inscription :

FRANCIS ORMOND,

PUBLIC BENEFACTOR.

*Died May 5, 1889.*

It is erected close to the Working Men's College, and facing Latrobe Street.

In the evening the annual demonstration in connection with the distribution of prizes to the successful students of the Working Men's College was held in the Town Hall. Professor Kernot, who occupied the chair, outlined the history of the institution. It was gradually recovering the position which it had held before the great financial crisis, and the classes that were held covered technical and artistic subjects helpful to every section of the community.

Lord Brassey observed that he had been present at the College on a recent evening, when it was in full working order, and had come away deeply impressed with the debt which Melbourne and Victoria owed to the late Mr. Francis Ormond for the bountiful appropriation of his wealth which he had made to the College. His Excellency then distributed the prizes to the successful students.

“The success which has attended the undertaking from its inception has converted all opposition into approval. The classes have been thronged, the range of subjects widely extended, and an ever-increasing desire manifested to take full advantage of the aids to progress which the liberality of Mr. Ormond has given to the people.”

That was the glad testimony then borne to the success of the College, a testimony which subsequent years have abundantly confirmed.

## CHAPTER XLI

### POPULARITY AND SUCCESS OF THE WORKING MEN'S COLLEGE

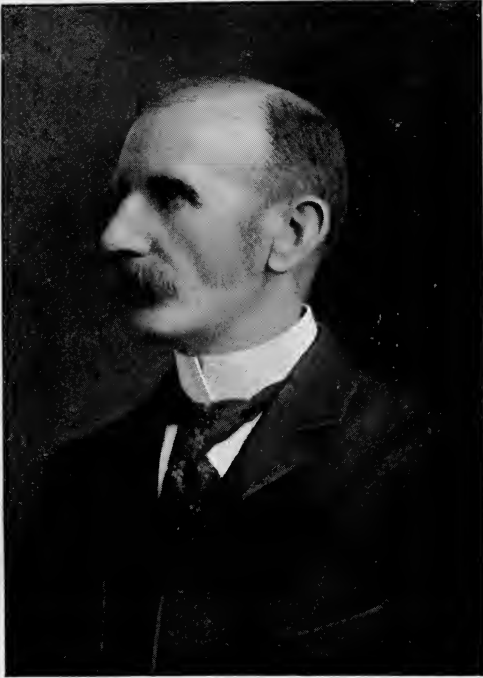
PROFESSOR KERNOT, who took an intelligent and warm interest in all the work of the College, gave, in July 1901, the sum of £300 for the equipment of a class in iron foundry. In October following, the Earl of Hopetoun formally opened an exhibition of students' work, together with several new workshops which had been recently added to the mechanical portion of the institution. In 1903, a small block of land adjoining the Bowen Street building was transferred to the Council; and soon after a substantial edifice was erected on it at a cost of about £5,000—including equipment. This was utilised for the extension of the usefulness of the College.

An arrangement was made about this time with the Railway Commissioners for the whole of the apprentices at the Newport Workshops to take a three years' course at the College—all the fees to be paid by the Commissioners. This arrangement has been in operation ever since, and has proved in every way satisfactory. In 1905 the institution was incorporated under the Companies Act. Not

only was it believed it would thus gain in dignity and stability, but the members of the Council were thus relieved of personal financial responsibility. A small building grant was now received with which additions were made, and some equipment provided for various departments of industry.

The want of preliminary training for the evening students had always been severely felt, the efficiency of most of the classes being much impaired by the want of preliminary knowledge on the part of those presenting themselves for instruction. To remedy this elementary courses in mathematics, science, drawing, and shop work were arranged for those about to take trade and science classes. These have been steadily growing in numbers, in attendance, and in usefulness since they were established. There was now, in consequence of this new departure, a steady growth in the number of students taking courses rather than single subjects, due largely to the work of the preliminary classes, enabling the students to carry on the work of the theoretical classes with success.

At the annual smoke night of the Council of the College on March 29, 1906, Senator Findley proposed the toast "To the Memory of the Founder of the Working Men's College." "The late Francis Ormond," he said, "had by his unostentatious generosity endowed an institution which would be an everlasting monument to his memory. He was a man who gave in order to stimulate others to give. Few, if any, people could measure the value of the work which had



MR. F. A. CAMPBELL, C.E.

TO THE  
MEMBERS OF THE



been done by the Working Men's College. In almost every sphere of life there were men in high places who owed their present positions to the training they received through that institution. They were to be found in the Federal and State Parliaments, as well as in other walks of life. He had been on the Council of the College for eleven years, and therefore was well acquainted with the splendid results that had been received through the generosity of the late statesman. It was said that whenever Francis Ormond went down the street he was ready to extend his hand to the humblest man in the community. It was as if heart spoke to heart. He only hoped that we would have more men of the type of the late Francis Ormond. Australia had declared in favour of Protection, and if we were to hold our own in the world we would have to establish up-to-date factories. Such places could only be kept up-to-date by the training received at such institutions as that which Francis Ormond had endowed."

The College in 1907 was "rushed by young men and women athirst for knowledge," and had the names of 2,600 students on its list. For some of the classes it was impossible to give adequate accommodation, and hundreds of young people were waiting for admission when vacancies occurred.

The College was straitened in every way for want of means. It had no endowment fund: the salaries of teachers were therefore too low, the students' fees were too high, and the teaching appliances insufficient. An attempt was made at that time to establish an

endowment fund. Mr. A. T. Danks, a member of the Council of the Working Men's College, was so impressed by the unsatisfactory financial condition of the institution, notwithstanding its admittedly economical management, that he gave a donation of £500 to initiate an endowment fund. This encouraged the Council to organise meetings in order to arouse public interest in the matter, but the response was limited, and the amount subscribed did not exceed £1,000 in all.

In 1910, a building grant of £10,000 having been promised towards the erection and equipment of a school of industrial art, the Council decided to erect the first portion of a building of three stories on the vacant corner of Latrobe and Bowen Streets, adjoining the present building. This addition, which has long been urgently wanted, will materially strengthen the art side of the College, and enable the Council to add some applied art subjects to the curriculum.

With this building grant, with the provision for extending the preliminary training as it is required, and with an annual maintenance vote from Government of £10,000, the College is now in a better position than it ever has been for meeting the demands made upon it. There are still important trades in which teaching is not provided for, but these no doubt will receive attention as opportunity occurs and funds are available for the necessary buildings and equipment.

Half of the number of students are artisans, the remainder are shopkeepers and others who are anxious for general improvement in education. There are now

3,924 students enrolled, some of whom attend the day classes, others the classes which meet at night. The influence of the College on the trades and industries of the city is a distinctly marked one. They are directly benefited by the creation of a better, more skilled, and more highly trained class of tradesmen.

The revenue of the College is derived from students' fees, amounting to £8,500 : the Government subsidy increased last year to £6,800. This was quite inadequate for an institution in which nearly 4,000 students are being trained in every branch of technical work, but with an increased subsidy the financial pressure will be relieved.

Mr. F. A. Campbell, C.E., Secretary and Director of the College, has amply justified the wisdom of his appointment to the office which he holds. He has brought to the performance of his duties fidelity, diligence, a wide and intelligent grasp of the means necessary to popularise the institution and command success ; and in no small measure its development and progress on the most approved lines are due to his admirable fitness for the position which he fills.

## CHAPTER XLII

NEW DINING-HALL OPENED ; ACADEMIC SUCCESSES ;  
MASTER AND PROFESSORS OF ORMOND COLLEGE

OUR Colleges, like our broad Australian Continent, have no past history with its inspiring lessons for us, no hoary traditions reaching centuries back, telling us of men who sat within the walls and upon the benches on which we sat, and put off their academic gowns to go forth and fight old-world battles, or win triumphs in letters and art, or stand as counsellors in the presence of kings. The very atmosphere of the old-world collegiate life is redolent of the past : it fires the imagination and the heart. Occasionally Sir William Geddes broke away from his luminous comments on some Greek tragedy to delight us with brilliant allusion to some graduate of King's who had done heroic work among men, and achieved fame that was world-wide.

And just because our university is wanting in that subtle, historic influence which operated so strongly on some of us in the Scottish collegiate life, it is a distinct gain to our students to look into the faces and hear the voices of men like Lord Aberdeen and others, who have visited Ormond, and spoken to them words of wisdom and kindly counsel.

Lord Meath, who visited Ormond College in April 1892, gave an interesting address to the students, dealing chiefly with the influence a university and young university men ought to have in connection with the higher thought and life of the nation, and in forming a nobler standard for political and social integrity. He affirmed that "political and social integrity must begin in individual character and purity. The life which tells upon the nation for the noblest ends must be motivated in personal honesty, goodness, and right principle. The very meanness and selfishness of the sensual life should make young men avoid and abhor it. He counselled them not to allow themselves, or the educated class, to abandon the political power of the country to wire-pullers and place-seekers, but to set themselves to make the mercantile and public life of the land sweet, clean, and strong with the manfulness of genuine character, simple living, and high thinking."

The committee of the Ormond College Council reported that £36,000 had been received from the executors of the late Mr. Ormond, of which amount the sum of £16,000 was reserved as a permanent endowment, the remaining being devoted to the erection of additional buildings. The successful nature of the work done may be gauged by this interesting item of the report: "The students of the College have carried off thirteen University Exhibitions and seven scholarships: also the Bowen Prize for the best English Essay on 'The Uses of an Upper House.' "

A large company met at Ormond College, on May 22, 1893, at the invitation of the Council, to witness the ceremony of the opening of the new dining-hall by His Excellency the Earl of Hopetoun, who was accompanied by the Countess. The Moderator of the General Assembly, Rev. James Henderson, conducted devotional exercises, after which Dr. Morrison gave a statement detailing the growth of the College. The total amount contributed to the building by Mr. Ormond, during his life and out of his estate after his death, was £111,970, besides which £15,077 had been subscribed by members of the Church. The Earl of Hopetoun then briefly declared the hall open.

Dr. J. H. McFarland, Master of Ormond, in proposing a vote of thanks to the Governor, said: "His Excellency took a genuine statesman's interest in all Her Majesty's Australian colonies, and, it might be hoped, such a peculiar interest in Victoria and its institutions that he would doubtless be an appreciative critic of our system of university education. That system endeavoured to unite the strong points of the German, Scottish, and Irish universities with the social and residential advantages of the great English universities. Though the College was opened in 1881, it was not until 1886 and 1887 that we began to show any individuality. All who were connected with the management of the College felt the most profound gratitude for the high principles which actuated those students who took the lead in the life of the College, the tone of which had been such

as any institution might be proud of. His Excellency would, he hoped, see what some of the young men of Australia had done in building up an institution which, in its turn, would send forth not only well-trained professional men, but also good citizens who would make the country truly great."

His Excellency said he might be excused for taking a little additional interest in a College which was connected with the Presbyterian Church, to which he himself belonged. In bygone years his ancestors had fought hard for that religion, and though they were loyal, yet they were not afraid to stand up against the King when he tried to oppress their religion. It gave him great pleasure to see a branch of his own Church set up in this Colony, and to see that great College founded in connection with it.

Ormond College can show a brilliant record of academic triumphs. Year by year it has added length and lustre to its roll of fame. A large number of exhibitions and scholarships, and of special prizes offered, have fallen to its men, who have stood well to the front in all university competitions. The activities of the various societies, literary, social, and athletic, which have so important a place among the advantages of college life, have been well sustained. The total number of students this year is 123, of whom 90 are in residence, and 15 of these are preparing for the ministry of our Church.

The splendid success of the College, its high tone, its growing importance as a great educational centre,

and powerful factor in moulding the character and shaping the destiny of the nation, are in large measure due to the eminent fitness for his position of the Master, whose strong personality has left its impress on the students. Some years ago his University fittingly conferred upon him the honorary distinction of LL.D., in graceful recognition of the important educational office which he fills; and quite recently he was unanimously elected Vice-Chancellor of the University Council.

Professor J. Lawrence Rentoul, M.A., D.D., still serves the Church in her Theological Hall with all the intellectual fire and forcefulness of the old days, and with that fine spiritual influence and genial sympathy and subtle humanness that capture the students' hearts and kindle and feed in them devotion to the duties of the high office which they aim to fill, he binds them to himself with cords of affection and trust.

Professor Murdoch Macdonald, D.D., passed away on January 25, 1906, to a higher sphere of service. He was a man greatly beloved, full of courtesy and kindness and eminently qualified by gifts and graces for the position which he filled. "He did much for the Theological Hall in addition to the duties of his Chair. He really managed the Library, and administered the scholarships for the students, as Convener of the Scholarships Board. One of his last acts of generosity was to give over his own extensive and fine library to the Theological Hall Committee for the supplementing of the Hall Library.



The books were in process of transfer when his death occurred.

“He was a well-read and scholarly man, but not given to change. Though fully alive to the changing circumstances of our time, he remained fully and faithfully evangelical, as, indeed, all must do who depend on the Lord Jesus Christ in His life and death for their own salvation and that of the world.”

Dr. Andrew Harper, on his removal to Sydney, was succeeded by the Rev. Alex. Skene, M.A., who now occupies the Chair of Hebrew and Homiletics at Ormond College. Professor Macdonald was succeeded by the Rev. D. S. Adam, M.A., B.D., formerly of the U. F. Church, Greenock.



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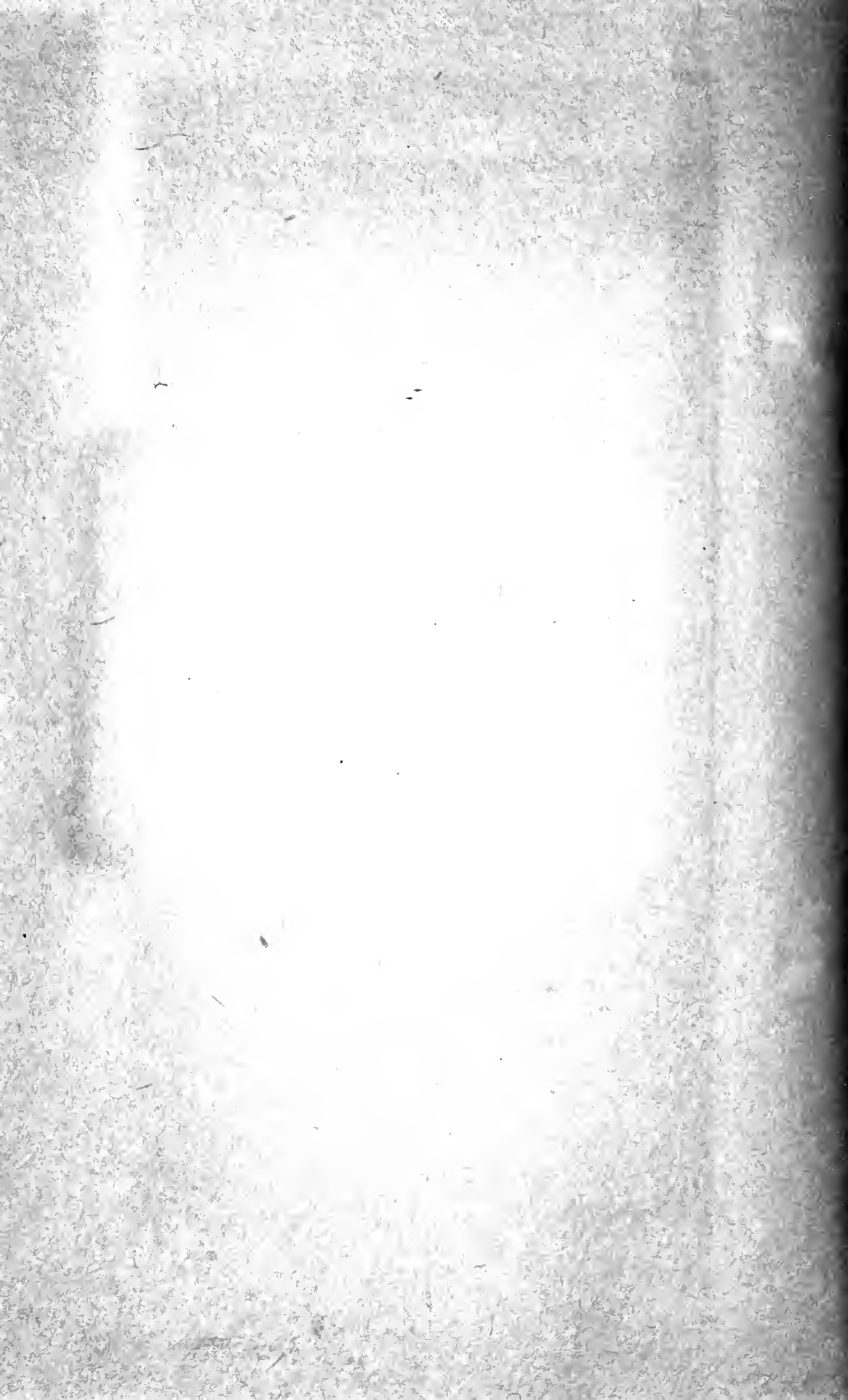
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